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Labour Law Gratuity may be raised

HIGHLIGHTS of the proposed amendments to the existing Kuwaiti Labour Law in the private sector include an increase in the amount of sick, annual and maternity leave. Further the proposed amendments recommended an increase in the end-of-service gratuities and reconsideration of the intention to terminate contracts with open validity.

The new recommendations stress the need for establishing a fixed minimum wage level, increasing the age level of juveniles and prevent recruitment in the labour force of juveniles who fall within the new age category.

The new draft law enhanced the scope of application to cover existing labour laws to include labourers who work in establishments employing not more than five labourers.

It also has made provisions for addressing the existing loopholes in the existing labour law by recommending the banning of stoppage or declining to work, whether partially or totally during the course of negotiations intended to seek settlement of disputes arising from working conditions.

Under the new draft law, penalties for violations have been increased, and the addition of inspectors commissioned to ensure the applications of the law have been also recommended.

Aquino lauds House

MANILA, Oct 17, (AP): President Corason Aquino today hailed a decision by the lower house of Congress allowing Filipinos to vote on whether to allow the United States to keep military bases there.

But some senators condemned the move as unconstitutional.

The House of Representatives late yesterday unanimously approved a bill calling for a referendum after Filipino and American negotiators reach an agreement to extend the lease on the US facilities, which expires in Sept 1991.

Two-thirds of the Senate must approve any new agreement and the proposed referendum is seen as a means of pressuring members to ratify it. Twelve of the 23 senators oppose extension. Most surveys, however, show a majority of Filipinos support the bases.

"I have already said that I am in favour of public consultation on any treaty that might be forged between the US and the Philippines regarding the future of the US military facilities in the Philippines," Aquino said of the house action.

Sen. Ernesto Maceda, chairman of the Senate Defence and National Security Committee, said the Senate had a "very clear position" that the proposed referendum was unconstitutional.

Two assassins shot and killed a broadcast executive in the central Philippines early today, an affiliate station in Manila reported.

Rino Arcones, area manager of DZXL Radio in Iloilo, died of multiple gunshot wounds to the head, neck and body, said Angelo Palmones, an announcer for station DZXL in Manila.

(See Page 2)

Dow down, Fed pumps more cash

European shares recover, US trade deficit rises by 31 per cent

NEW YORK, Oct 17, (Agencies): US stocks retreated today following two of the wildest sessions on Wall Street since the October 1987 market crash.

The Dow Jones average of 30 industrial stocks was off 24.80 points at 2,632.58 as of 1 pm (1700 GMT), after spiking as much as 63 points down just 90 minutes earlier. Broader market indicators also fell.

European share prices ended mostly higher today after seesawing uncertainly in active trading. The nervous European session followed good recoveries in Asia.

The Dow average had plummeted 190.58 points on Friday and then bounced back with a 88.12-point gain yesterday, leaving investors groping for stable ground.

The Commerce Department handed the market some bad news today with its report that the US foreign merchandise trade deficit rose nearly \$31 per cent in August to \$10.77 billion from a revised July deficit of \$8.24 billion.

Many economists had expected the latest trade deficit to be about \$9 billion.

But analysts did not all agree that the 'big trade deficit was a major factor in today's stock decline. Some noted that bonds and the dollar—which are most sensitive to bad trade figures—held up relatively well in the early going.

The Federal Reserve, taking the lead in handling the government's market rescue efforts, pumped an additional \$1.5 billion into the US banking system today.

Banks will be able to use the new reserves to make loans, including coming to the assistance of brokerage firms caught in a crash squeeze because of the drop in stock prices.

The new infusion of cash followed an increase of \$2 billion in reserves supplied by the central bank on Monday and came as the stock market was tumbling in reaction to a surprisingly bad economic report.

The government said the merchandise trade deficit in August widened dramatically to \$10.77 billion, the worst deficit since December of last year.

Monday's gain was concentrated in blue-chip stocks, which benefited from a "flight to quality" by nervous investors. It came on trading volume of 416.29 million shares, the heaviest ever except for the week of the 1987 market crash. The index's gain was the fourth-biggest point gain, although it was not among the biggest percentage gainers.

(Continued on Page 11)



Benazir arrives in Kuala Lumpur to attend C'wealth summit.

Khar boost for Benazir Returns to fold

ISLAMABAD, Oct 17, (Reuters): Leading Pakistani opposition politician Ghulam Mustafa Khar made peace with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto yesterday, three years after he left her party to help form a rival grouping.

"Even on a charitable assessment, the combined opposition is not capable of forming a stable administration," Khar told a news conference. "Sometimes it seems that it is combined only by hatred for the Bhutto name."

Khar said he had chosen to align himself with Benazir's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and would formally merge his faction of the small National People's Party with the PPP at a convention to be held later.

The former governor and chief minister of Pakistan's most populous province, Punjab, said he would work to reconcile the PPP and its opponents, to strengthen the country's democracy revived last year after 11 years of military rule.

Local political commentators say Benazir, who comes from the southern province of Sindh, wants to use Khar's influence in Punjab to subdue her main rival, the present Punjab Chief Minister Nawaz Sharif of the Islamic Democratic Alliance.

A bomb killed one man and wounded three other people today in Karachi, where supporters of a separatist politician are staging a strike marked by violence, police said.

Pakistan today named Bashir Khan Baber, a career diplomat, as its new envoy to India.

Indian troops begin pullout

BATTICALOA, Sri Lanka, Oct 17, (Agencies): Two hundred trucks carrying soldiers and equipment moved out of the eastern town of Batticaloa yesterday, signalling the start of the Indian troop withdrawal from Sri Lanka.

The trucks assembled in Batticaloa from different parts of the neighbouring Ampara district before heading out in convoy, residents said today.

The convoy was heading for the eastern port of Trincomalee where the soldiers will board ships to go home.

Sri Lanka's anti-subversive vigilante groups were held responsible today for the slaughter of 23 young men and women whose bodies were seen in flames by residents and the police—15 in Matale, 96 miles from Colombo and eight in Humpitaya, Wattala.

Libya, Egypt foes no longer

TOBRUK, Libya, Oct 17, (Reuters): Egypt's Hosni Mubarak and Libyan leader Muammar Khaddafi, enemies for years, exchanged vows today to respect each other's laws, security and stability.

Mubarak, who began reconciliation talks with Khaddafi yesterday in the Egyptian coastal resort of Mersa Matruh, crossed the border today to make the first visit to Libya by an Egyptian President in 17 years.

"The two leaders made it clear that Egypt and Libya were starting a new chapter," Egyptian Information Minister Safwat Sharif told reporters.

He said both leaders stressed their eagerness for each other's security and stability and the importance of respecting laws in each country.

Dressed in a Western-style white suit and black shirt, Khaddafi hugged Mubarak on his arrival at the coastal town of Tobruk about 130 km (70 miles) west of the border.

Thousands of Libyans chanted "One people, not two, from Marrakesh to Bahrain" as Khaddafi led Mubarak into a bedouin-style tent for almost three hours of talks.

Even Mubarak, in response to the "one people" theme, had to answer "yes—one people."

But diplomats say the Egyptian leader, known for his cautious, steady style, is expected to move slowly in search of tangible results rather than allowing old dreams of a union between the two countries to be resurrected.

Libya and Syria are the only Arab countries which have not yet restored ties with Egypt, broken in 1979 after Cairo's peace treaty with Israel.

There has been no move yet to restore diplomatic ties but the talks mark the end of almost two decades of hostility which included in a brief border war in 1977.

Khaddafi met Mubarak in May when Egypt returned to its place at an Arab League summit.

In comments yesterday, Khaddafi also indicated that he had dropped a long-standing claim to Egypt's western desert.

"This soil is Arab soil. It is Libyan and Egyptian people and soil," he told reporters.

The last Egyptian president to visit Libya was Mubarak's predecessor, Anwar Sadat, who travelled to Benghazi to discuss a merger of the two countries.

According to Sharif, Mubarak and Khaddafi also discussed agricultural co-operation, a possible connection of their power grids and the rights of migrant workers.

Before relations soured, hundreds of thousands of Egyptians abandoned overcrowding and unemployment at home in search of work in sparsely-populated Libya.

Indian polls set for November

Rajiv hands forced: Bombay market panicky

NEW DELHI, Oct 17, (Agencies): Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, dogged by charges of inept leadership and government corruption, today called for new parliamentary elections to be held next month.

Voting in the world's largest democracy will start Nov 22 and continue through Nov 24, Chief Election Commissioner R.V.S. Periasastri told a news conference.

He said subsequent dates would be announced if two days appear insufficient.

Bombay stock prices tumbled on the news. One dealer said: "It was a stroke out of the blue and the immediate reaction was panic."

Bombay brokers said nobody expected polls in November and charges of corruption against the government had focused attention on the uncertainties ahead.

For the first time 35 million 18- to 20-year-olds will be able to vote, but few analysts will predict who will gain most from the increase in the electorate.

"The National Front and the Janata Dal are fully prepared to meet the challenge posed to the future of the nation by a corrupt, inept and treacherous regime headed by a totally venal and amoral individual," Singh told a news conference.

Singh, who once belonged to Rajiv's Congress Party and served as his defence and finance minister, said he would ask the Election Commission to set elections for early December.

The process for calling elections was set in motion this morning when Rajiv summoned his cabinet.

The decision came rather abruptly as Rajiv cancelled plans to attend this week's Commonwealth summit in Malaysia.

The 45-year-old prime minister has been dogged for the past two years by opposition and newspaper charges that people close to him or his Congress Party received kickbacks paid by the Swedish arms company, AB Bofors.

At stake are 542 seats in the Lok Sabha, Parliament's policy-making lower house.

Because of the vastness of this country of 880 million people, elections normally are conducted over a period of several days.

Rajiv's Congress Party won 415 seats in the last elections, conducted in December 1984 two months after his mother, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, was assassinated by two of her Sikh bodyguards.

"He had no choice but to quickly have the elections in order to contain the damage caused by the revelations on Bofors," said Lal Kishan Advani.

Veteran opposition leader Devi Lal said the main opposition group had done all its groundwork.

New elections were due by January, but speculation had been mounting that they would be called earlier.

Rajiv's decision came on the heels of fresh charges of high-level corruption and his failure to push two constitutional amendments through parliament last week.

"By deciding to face the people, the government has been forced to take the only option available to it," said Rajiv's chief political rival, Vishwanath Pratap Singh.

Singh is the leader of the Janata Dal, one of five groups comprising the opposition National Front.



India's Chief Election Commissioner Periasastri announces national elections. (Reuters wirephoto)

Amnesty: ban death penalty

Indian executions arbitrary

NEW DELHI, Oct 17, (UPI): Amnesty International today urged the Indian government to abolish capital punishment, charging that some execution decisions appeared to be arbitrary, that most of those condemned are poor and illiterate and some could be innocent.

"The Indian constitution protects the right to life. Yet on average, over a dozen Indians are executed every year for criminal offences," the London-based human rights group said in a report on capital punishment in the world's most populous democracy.

The report cited studies that showed that execution "in India, as in other countries, is not known to have a special deterrent effect" in violent crime.

"Amnesty International urges the government to take steps to abolish the death penalty, possibly by setting up a commission to review its application," said the report.

"Pending abolition, Amnesty International urges the government not to carry out further executions, to restrict the number of offences carrying the death penalty, and to remove the possibility that offenders younger than 18 years old when they committed the offence can be executed," it continued.

The report noted that many prominent Indians have urged abolition of the death penalty. They included the late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi who said she personally opposed capital punishment, although her government never made any move to abandon it.

Amnesty International cited a number of factors behind its call for abolition of capital punishment, which in India is carried out by hanging. Lower court sentences can be automatically appealed to higher tribunals.

On the issue of appeals, the report focused on series of cases that illustrated a lack of uniformity and "apparent arbitrariness" in judicial judgements.

Amnesty

NICOSIA, Oct 17, (AP): Iran's spiritual leader today decreed an amnesty for prisoners throughout the country, Tehran Radio reported, but it left out all but the pettiest criminals.

The radio, said all criminals sentenced before Oct 18 will be covered by the decree issued by Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

But the decree "excludes those convicted of capital crimes such as grand embezzlement, taking large bribes, usurping or looting state property, robbery, drug-related crimes and membership in outlawed political groups," the radio said.

Ivory trade banned

LAUSANNE, Switzerland, Oct 17, (Reuters): A conference seeking to save the elephant from extinction decided today on a world-wide ban on ivory trading despite strong objections from several Southern African nations.

The biennial conference of the 103-nation Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) made the decision by consensus.

Zimbabwe, Botswana and Mozambique immediately said they would continue to trade in ivory. Other countries earlier said they would lodge similar reservations but did not voice these at the conference. (See Page 4)

Shadowy foes wage lethal war against Saudis, hit diplomats

KUWAIT, Oct 17, (Reuters): Blasted by a bomb in Ankara yesterday, a junior Saudi diplomat became the latest casualty in a lethal war waged by shadowy foes against Riyadh.

The blood-stained pavement and the twisted metal of the diplomat's car in the Turkish capital marked at least the eighth violent attack on Saudi diplomacy in the last three years.

Riyadh condemned the Ankara car bombing and called for the swift arrest and punishment of whoever was responsible.

Diplomats said the attacks have often not been directed at senior diplomats, but at more vulnerable "soft targets." The junior Ankara diplomat was an accountant at the Saudi military attaché office.

Last January, the third secretary at the Saudi embassy in Bangkok was shot in the head by an "Arab looking killer." A week earlier a vice-consul in Karachi was shot and wounded in the jaw.

A light-skinned gunman opened fire at close range on a car with Saudi diplomatic plates in the Nigerian capital Lagos in March 1988.

Three Arabic teachers in the car were injured. The assailant, armed with a pistol and silencer, made no attempt to steal the car or valuables.

The same month, dud grenades were found at the Saudi consulate in Bombay.

In August, 1987, a Pakistani secretary of the Saudi consulate in Karachi was shot in the thigh.

In Beirut, a Saudi diplomat was kidnapped then later released in early 1987, followed a few months later by the bombing there of the Saudi cultural centre.

Saudi Arabian airlines offices have been bombed in Kuwait, Frankfurt, twice in Karachi, Tokyo, Kuala Lumpur, Beirut and New Delhi.

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ARAB TIMES

Grand Bingo

KD 250 must be won

Numbers for Game No. 73 appear on Page 2.

INTERNATIONAL

Rajiv had no option but polls

Bofors scandal the focus

NEW DELHI, Oct 17, (Reuters): A billion-dollar arms scandal and the defeat of a populist measure to devolve power to village councils forced Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi today to recommend November elections, politicians said.

Rajiv could have held the elections as late as January, but after a full cabinet meeting in New Delhi the Election Commission announced they would be held on Nov 22 and 24.

"He had no choice but to quickly have the elections in order to contain the damage caused by the revelations on Bofors," said Lal Kishan Advani, president of the rightwing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Newspaper revelations in the past week have revived allegations that Sweden's Bofors company paid kickbacks to secure a \$1.3 billion contract for artillery.

The allegations, denied by Rajiv and Bofors, have tarnished the image he had as a clean politician when he came to power in Oct 31, 1984 — the day his mother, Indira Gandhi, was assassinated.

"Corruption is the main issue in this election, not the sympathy wave for his mother which got him a landslide in the last (Dec 27, 1984) general elections," said Advani.

For Rajiv, a victory could depend on convincing voters that the opposition acted against the best interests of ordinary Indians when it defeated two government bills in the Upper House on Friday.

The bills, to devolve power from state government and New Delhi to village and town councils, failed by narrow margins to secure a two-thirds majority needed to amend the constitution.

"Naturally it (the defeat) was a good time to announce the elections," said Advani.

Nearly 80 per cent of India's 800 million people live in rural areas and their support is vital to whomsoever forms the next government.

"It is a master stroke. We were under pressure from newspaper reports last week making strong allegations against the government on Bofors. Now the Congress has found an issue to counter the opposition strategy," said Rajiv aide.

Political analysts said Rajiv could also hope to stir up popular sentiment because a series of emotive dates linked with his mother and grandfather fall just before the poll. His grandfather, Jawaharlal Nehru, was India's first prime minister.

Nov 14 is the 100th anniversary of Nehru's birth, and five days later is the birthday of Indira Gandhi. Such days are important in India and are often used for emotional political rallies.

Rajiv was also hoping to catch the opposition by surprise and reduce the time it has to agree seat adjustments.

A surge in violence involving India's majority Hindus and 100 million Muslims in the past month has complicated the seat adjustments for the traditionally fragmented opposition.

The main National Front alliance is now split over an understanding with Advani over the BJP's support for militant Hindus determined to start building near a shrine in northern India that is also claimed by Muslims.

But a leader of the main opposition Janata Dal Party, Devi Lal, said the combined opposition would agree to put up a single candidate in at least 90 per cent of seats.

The most crucial area electorally will be the northern Hindi-speaking belt that controls nearly half the total 545 seats in the Lower House.

Expectations that an election date would be set soon rose when Parliament adjourned its monsoon session Friday night. The next step is the dissolution of Parliament by President Ramaswamy Venkatarman, whose largely ceremonial post is awarded by the prime minister's cabinet.

Once Parliament is dissolved, the election commission must set a date to vote for new legislators.

"If the Congress-I (the I stands for Rajiv's predecessor and mother, Indira Gandhi) so far lacked a catchy election slogan, it now has one because, in rural and urban India, great expectations had been roused that the Panchayati Raj and local self-government institutions would be democratised and revitalised," the Hindustan Times said in a front-page story on Saturday.

Rajiv and his Congress party billed Panchayati Raj as a power-to-the-people programme, but the opposition maintained it was actually designed to strip state governments of their power and extend federal control to local levels.

Vishwanath Pratap Singh, Rajiv's foremost political foe, said on Friday the National Front coalition of opposition parties would come up with its own — and "much better" — Panchayati Raj bill.

Singh, who once belonged to Rajiv's Congress Party and served as his defence and finance minister, now heads the Janata Dal (People's Party) and is the National Front's "convenor," a top position. It is indicative of the coalition's internal rivalries and its need to placate egos that it also has a chairman and a president.

Philippines dismisses 34 drug officers

MANILA, Oct 17, (AP): The military's Drug Enforcement Agency today sacked 34 officers and enlisted men after a Filipino senator charged that narcotics investigators were protecting drug lords.

In addition, Brig. Gen. Pantaleon Dumlaog, chief of the criminal investigation service and former head of the narcotics command, announced today he was going on leave, according to members of his staff.

Dumlaog was the highest ranking of 19 officials Sen. Ernesto Herrera accused of "coddling" drug

syndicates.

Col Virgilio David, current narcotics command chief, told reporters the 34 dismissed officials included a lieutenant colonel, nine other officers and 24 enlisted men assigned to his unit.

All were assigned to the narcotics command. David said they would be transferred to other units outside the Manila area "to fight the NPA."

Dumlaog has denied links to drug dealers. He offered to go on leave but was overruled by Maj. Gen. Ramon Montano, chief of the Philippine Con-

stabulary, which includes the narcotics command. But members of Dumlaog's staff said he told them today that he had been ordered to go on leave by President Corason Aquino.

In a speech on Friday before the Senate, Herrera charged that corrupt military officers had undermined the government's campaign against illegal drugs.

"What hope is there of our ever being able to control, much less solve, this national crisis?" Herrera asked. He also threatened to release names

of civilian officials linked to the drug trade despite death threats against him.

On Monday, the 3,000-member Office Corps of the Philippine Constabulary, which has a dual role as a police and military force, called for an investigation of alleged corruption to clear the branch's reputation.

The commission on immigration and deportation says the Philippines had become a major center for drug traffic and a transit point for smuggling operations throughout the Far East.



Atlantis Pilot McCulley (right) gives a thumbs up to Nasa workers as the crew leaves headquarters today. (Reuters wirephoto)

Atlantis launch delayed

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla., Oct 17, (Agencies): Bad weather today postponed the launch of the space shuttle Atlantis, which was to have sent a multi-billion-dollar spacecraft on an exploratory voyage to Jupiter.

In keeping the shuttle grounded at least for the day, nature accomplished what opponents of the mission could not through court challenges and street demonstrations over the plutonium fuel aboard the Jupiter probe.

Space agency officials, who mounted an unprecedented security operation to prevent protesters from halting the planned launch, said they would try again tomorrow.

Nasa had only a 26-minute period, beginning at 12:57 pm (1957 GMT), during which earth and Jupiter were in proper alignment for a launch. When time ran out, the launch was halted for the day.

Liftoff was called off at 1:18 pm (1718 GMT) because of rain showers through which the shuttle would pass if it had to make an emergency landing.

Officials said rain hitting a descending shuttle could severely damage the fragile fiberglass tiles that protect the vehicle from heat during re-entry from orbit.

Nasa said that if it decided to launch the shuttle tomorrow, liftoff could take place between 12:50 pm (1650 GMT) and 1:17 pm (1718 GMT).

Today's countdown began normally as the launch team pumped more than half a million gallons (1.8 million litres) of liquid oxygen and hydrogen into Atlantis' external tanks.

Why not a black Jesus?

LONDON, Oct 17, (Reuters): Former world heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali believes black Christians should have their own black Jesus, the Sun newspaper reported today.

The traditional portrayal of Jesus, angels and saints as white was meant to reinforce white supremacy and make blacks feel inferior, said Ali who became a Muslim in 1964 and is closely connected with America's radical black Muslims.

"The reason is because the whites didn't want their children to see a nigger up there on the cross," he added in an interview with the Sun.

Waldheim not responsible but probably was aware of executions: report

LONDON, Oct 17, (AP): The Ministry of Defence has concluded that Austrian President Kurt Waldheim was not responsible for the executions of six British commandos in World War II, although he probably was aware of them, Britain's domestic news agency reported today.

Press Association quoted a report from an 18-month investigation as saying Waldheim, as a junior officer, could not be held responsible for the executions.

A spokeswoman at the Ministry of Defence confirmed that the report was completed but refused to comment on the findings. She said a statement would be made to the House of Commons.

Waldheim, a former UN secretary-general, had been accused of complicity in the murders of the British troops captured off the Turkish coast in April 1944.

The troops were taken to Arsalki near Salonika, Greece for interrogation at the

headquarters of the intelligence unit of the German army group E, where Waldheim was a junior intelligence officer.

The six commandos of the special boat squadron refused to talk, and were later shot by a firing squad in a suburb of Athens. Under the Geneva Convention it is a crime to kill prisoners of war.

The ministry's report is based on the work of a 16-member team which examined British records and documents

provided by the United States, West Germany and Greece.

An international commission of historians which probed Waldheim's army career reported in February 1988 that the initial "W" was on transcripts of interrogations of the six men.

However, the commission said it would not prove a connection between Waldheim and the commandos, though it suggested he knew they were shot by the Gestapo.

Calls to protect environ

World Food Day

ROME, Oct 17, (AP): The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation marked its ninth World Food Day yesterday with calls to protect the environment while using the earth's resources to feed the poor.

FAO's director-general Edouard Saouma said there is a "fundamental paradox" between providing sufficient food to humanity and safeguarding the environment.

In developed countries, pesticides and fertilisers have polluted air, earth and water, while developing countries have overexploited their natural resources in order to feed a steadily growing population, Saouma said.

An estimated 11 million hectares (27 million acres) of forest are cut down each year, leading to erosion, desert formation, bad crops and famine, he said.

"Agriculture, a victim of the ecological disaster, becomes a fearsome agent of the same process," Saouma said, calling for concerted action at the global level to halt the environment's destruction.

President George Bush joined in honouring the late Congressman Mickey Leland and others for their efforts in fighting world hunger marking World Food Day.

10 hurt in scuffles Dhaka strike

DHAKA, Oct 17, (Reuters): At least 10 people were hurt in scuffles between police and pickets as trade unions in Bangladesh launched a 48-hour nation-wide strike today to back pay demands.

The stoppage took hold despite a government call to halt the action, saying such "mindless agitation wrecks disaster on the national economy."

Banks, shops and business houses across the country were shut for the strike, called by the Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (Skop), an umbrella organisation for the country's 46 trade unions.

Most roads were empty of traffic except for some government buses that moved under police escort. Train and ferry services were suspended and airlines operated with delays, officials said.

In Dhaka, hundreds of government officials trudged through the streets to reach their offices. Some employees also took government-provided transport.

Police said 10 people, including a policeman, were hurt in clashes near the Farm Gate area after pickets tried to damage government vehicles carrying staff to work. Six people were later arrested.

It was the fifth general strike in three months. Skop leaders said they were forced to call the stoppage after the government ignored their demands for minimum basic wages of \$45 per month and home rent allowances of 60 per cent of wages.

The government said a national strike was suicidal for a country with an annual per capita income of \$170.

Bingo Day 1

30 13 63 75

Jerry takes 2 lives

GALVESTON, Texas, Oct 17, (AP): Hurricane Jerry raked the southern US coast yesterday with 80-mile- (129-km) per-hour winds, spawning a half-dozen tornadoes, blacking out homes and killing two people before losing its punch.

Authorities urged thousands of people in Louisiana to seek higher ground as the late-season storm moved north through east Texas. More Tornadoes and up to 5 inches (12 cms) of rain were possible, the national weather service said.

By 5 am (1000 GMT) the storm with down graded to a tropical depression with maximum 35 miles (56 kms) per hour. It was centered 35 miles (56 kms) east-southeast of Lufkin, near 31.2 degrees north latitude and 94.2 degrees west longitude. It was moving northeast at 17 miles (27 kms) per hour and was expected to continue in that direction and weaken further.

As the hurricane blew into Galveston from the Gulf of Mexico, it uprooted trees, smashed windows and tore several balconies from an apartment building, but damage overall was limited.

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Nancy shaped Moscow, US ties

NEW YORK, Oct. 17. (Reuters): Nancy Reagan's personal astrologer said yesterday she helped shape US-Soviet relations through her reading of Kremlin Leader Mikhail Gorbachev's horoscope and claimed she set the date for the signing of the 1987 INF Medium-Range Nuclear Missile Treaty.

"I'm a very good technical astrologer and I know how to schedule times," the astrologer, Joan Quigley said in an interview on the CBS evening news which estimated that Mrs Reagan paid Quigley \$3,000 a month for her services.

Mrs Reagan writes in her book, "My Turn: The Memoirs of Nancy Reagan." Excerpts to which were published in the current edition of Newsweek, that she began consulting Quigley after Reagan was shot in 1981.

She acknowledged that it eventually became a habit and finally "an enormous embarrassment" to her husband.

Quigley told CBS she had set the times for "almost all" of Reagan's speeches and for the takeoffs and landings of the presidential jet.

"I also affected, definitely, the relationship between the super-powers because of my reading of Gorbachev's horoscope. The minute I read it I knew that I had to change the evil empire attitude," she said.

Before ties between Washington and Moscow warmed under Gorbachev's policies of economic and political reform, Reagan had publicly branded the Soviet Union as an "evil empire" and arch-enemy of the free world.

"I talked with Nancy for two or three hours convincing her that Gorbachev was intelligent, open to new ideas, and that he had a vision like Reagan did," Quigley said.

She added that her reading of Gorbachev's horoscope enabled her to determine that the Soviet leader and Reagan "had a fantastic chemistry between them."

Quigley said she would "pick the times that they (the Reagans) did things of great importance."

"It's very important when something like the INF treaty would be signed, to do it at a very good time," she said.

Reagan and Gorbachev signed the INF treaty at a Washington summit in December 1987.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 17. (AP): US President George Bush has abandoned a last-ditch effort to reach a compromise with congress on expanding conditions under which the federal government would pay for abortions.

A veto of the provision, which has already passed the house of representatives, appeared inevitable.

It's our judgement at this time that no one has been able to provide a convincing reason for the president to change his position opposing such funds, presidential spokesman Martin Fitzwater said last yesterday.

Fitzwater said Bush's position on the bill is consistent, although it has changed somewhat since he first ran for president in 1980.

Bush, he said, opposes abortion except in the cases of rape, incest or when the pregnancy endangers the mother's life. But he supports federal financing of abortions only in cases where the mother's life is in danger.

In the compromise negotiations, Bush was looking for what one White House official, insisting on anonymity, called "legislative wizardry or gimmickery" that would have allowed the president to avoid vetoing the provision.

Fitzwater said talks included a proposal that Bush sign the legislation while announcing government regulations requiring stricter reporting requirements. Those requirements would be aimed at preventing women from claiming they had been victims of rape or incest merely as a way of obtaining a federally paid abortion.

The debate concerned a funding bill that includes provisions for dropping a decade-long ban on paying for abortions for poor women in cases of rape or incest. Currently, the government pays for abortions only in cases where the mother's life is endangered by her pregnancy.

Anything relaxed, flowing is in, power dressing is out UK designers loosen up their styles

LONDON, Oct. 17. (AP): British designers abandoned power dressing in their first collections for the 1990s, some returning to the wacky madness that made London fashions famous and others launching the decade in a relaxed, flowing style.

After putting women in status-conscious, super-structured clothes with big padded shoulders for several years, British designers have followed Milan in loosening up their styles for next summer.

But there's no uniform look and individuality remains the key fashion word in the British collections, being shown here through today.

"I would say it's anything flows in the 1990s and super-structure is out," said Bernie Ozer, vice-president of AMC Corp., a New York buying company.

The big names in British fashion — Rifat Ozbek, Arabella Pollen, Bruce Oldfield, Edina Ronay and Belville Sassoon — turned out some beautiful clothes. But the big news was in the youth market, where there was a revival of kooky, fun and sometimes off-the-wall clothes.

"The street look here has always been good," Ozer said. "Sometimes it's fashionable to like it. Sometimes it's unfashionable to like it. It's now in fashion."

Bodymap did their first catwalk show in three years on the theme "Life Is," featuring rock stars, drag queens, mini-skirts with plants and roses, Victorian-style bathing suits and one-shoulder cycle suits.

Red or dead's space-baby collection, which admittedly looks at the future with

"tongue firmly in cheek," was a hit with buyers.

It features see-through plastics applied with a logo of a smiling space-baby in a plastic helmet, micro shorts, skirts and jackets cheekily cut away to reveal flesh — the skirts with two waistbands and two transparent space-baby belts.

"It's just a fresh approach rather than all the power-dressing that's been around for years," said 28-year-old co-owner Wayne Hemingway.

Vivienne Westwood, the 48-year-old godmother of British fashion innovation who instituted the punk cult during the 1970s and is a nominee for designer of the year, showed her collection "Britain must go pagan" last evening.

It certainly was not for anyone with an extra ounce of fat, featuring very sexy

body-clinging catsuits, one-shoulder mummy-style knit mini-dresses, and skimpy shorts, one pair with an outrageous gold phallus.

Pam Hogg, a young Scottish designer, did her first solo collection, another very sexy show with bras like belts, leggings and skin-tight bustier tops, lace-up corsets, and clinging trousers with stretch patent leather in back and a series of straps in front with a bikini peeping through.

Much of the attention focused on the six contenders for the designer of the year award, which will be presented tonight by Princess Diana.

Rifat Ozbek, last year's winner and a hot contender again this year, abandoned his love of colour for a stunning all-white collection called "new age Nirvana."

Lottery madness Printer: culprit

JAKARTA, Health officials have gone on national television to urge shopkeepers to turn in any cookies suspected of being part of batches containing poison that have claimed at least 37 lives in Indonesia.

About 25 tonnes of cookies were mistakenly baked with poisonous sodium nitrate and distributed on the islands of Java, Bali and Kalimantan but authorities so far have been able to locate about 10 tonnes of the deadly snacks, leaving 15 tonnes still on the market.

At least 37 people — most of them children — have died from eating the cookies since September, officials said Tuesday.

Health Minister Dr Adhyatma appeared on state-run television for the past three nights urging shops still stocking the contaminated brands of cookies to turn them over to the nearest authorities. (UPI)

PHILADELPHIA: A man shot his ex-girlfriend and their two children to death, then set fire to the house and killed himself, police said. A device resembling a bomb was found in the gunman's pocket.

The device, discovered after the gunman's body was taken to the medical examiner's office, prompted the evacuation of the office for about an hour while a bomb squad removed it.

Daniel Wright, 37, apparently broke into the house before dawn Monday, shot Agnes Rivera, 29, and two children, set the fire and committed suicide, homicide Lt Joseph W. White said.

Neighbours and relatives said there had been tension between Wright and Ms Rivera for some time. (AP)

WASHINGTON: The marine drill ship, the USS Anzio, was ordered to leave the Persian Gulf, kill, pillage and burn, during basic training has written letters to his former recruits recanting use of the words.

"As your former senior drill instructor in Platoon 1066, I would like to correct a misconception you may have about words written on our basic warrior training guidon flag," said Sgt B. C. Kikpatrick in his letter.

"These words, 'rape, kill, pillage and burn' were certainly not an expression of my true beliefs or an official marine corps slogan."

The letter, dated Oct 6, was sent to all of the approximately 70 men in the platoon from Parris Island, south Carolina, Capt J.B. Mill, public affairs officer at the Parris Island base, said Monday. (AP)

WASHINGTON: An experimental AIDS vaccine has been found for the first time to stimulate the disease-fighting immune system of individuals infected with the AIDS virus, the vaccine's maker reported on Monday.

The new finding is the first evidence that individuals already infected with the AIDS virus HIV may benefit from vaccination before the appearance of disease symptoms.

"The ability to modify the human immune response to HIV in patients who are chronically infected with HIV has been clearly demonstrated," said Franklin Valverde, chairman of the US-based Microgenics Inc.

"We are very excited about it and very encouraged by it. We are very hopeful that we now have the means of providing a non-toxic treatment for early-stage AIDS patients," Volvovitz said in a telephone interview. (Reuters)

NEW YORK: Award-winning author Scott O'Dell, who wrote "Island of the Blue Dolphins" and 25 other children's books, has died. He was 91.

His latest Sunday of prostate cancer at the northern Westchester Hospital Centre in Mount Kisco near New York City.

O'Dell had written five books for adults before he turned to historical fiction for children.

"The only reason I write is to say something," he said in a 1984 interview. "I've forsaken adults because they're not going to change, though they may try awfully hard. But children can and do change."

O'Dell's books, which often featured female protagonists, won numerous awards. (AP)

Man dies

LAGOS, Nigeria, Oct. 17. (AP): A church leader was stung to death by a swarm of bees while officiating at a service Sunday at Ipele in Kwara state in central Nigeria, Radio Nigeria reported yesterday.

The radio said scores of worshippers were stung while fleeing the swarm, which invaded the church after a farmer disturbed their hive.

Joseph Ogubayoma, 40, an elder of the Cherubim and Seraphim Evangelical Church, was stung to death when he tried to drive the bees away with a broom.

UNITED NATIONS: The World Health Organisation (WHO) on Monday predicted a dramatic surge of AIDS, with over half a million people developing the disease in the next two years, compared to 100,000 in the first nine years of this decade.

Jonathan Mann, director of WHO's AIDS programme, told a UN committee that the number of adults with developed cases of AIDS during the 1990s would be almost nine times greater than the previous decade.

He gave no projections for children but said 150,000 infants were born infected with the virus in the 1980s.

WHO estimated that during the 1980s, the number of people infected with Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome rose to about six million. Of this number, about 600,000 people actually developed AIDS, of whom at least 300,000 may already have died. (Reuters)

ROME: Pope John Paul II marked the 11th anniversary of his election as pontiff in firing his canonising home aboard a jetliner over the Indian Ocean and with Lebanon and other destinations on his mind.

The most-travelled pontiff on Monday returned from Mauritius, the last leg of an Asian pilgrimage that was his 44th foreign tour since his election to the papacy Oct 16, 1978.

Over 10,000 the Pope visited Seoul, South Korea, Indonesia and Mauritius, spending 58 hours in the air alone.

John Paul will be 70 next May and showed signs of tiring on the Asian tour, especially under the wilting tropical sun. (AP)

ORLANDO, Florida, Oct. 17. (AP): Evangelist Jim Bakker says he will continue his television ministry, despite his conviction on fraud charges, as soon as he and his wife, Tammy Faye, can pay some bills.

"We are going back on television, whether it's me or Tammy or Tammy and me together," Bakker said Sunday on return to his New Covenant Church in Orlando.

Earlier this month, Bakker was convicted of defrauding supporters of \$3.7 million in connection with his former PTL Ministry and its heritage USA Christian Retreat at Fort Mill.

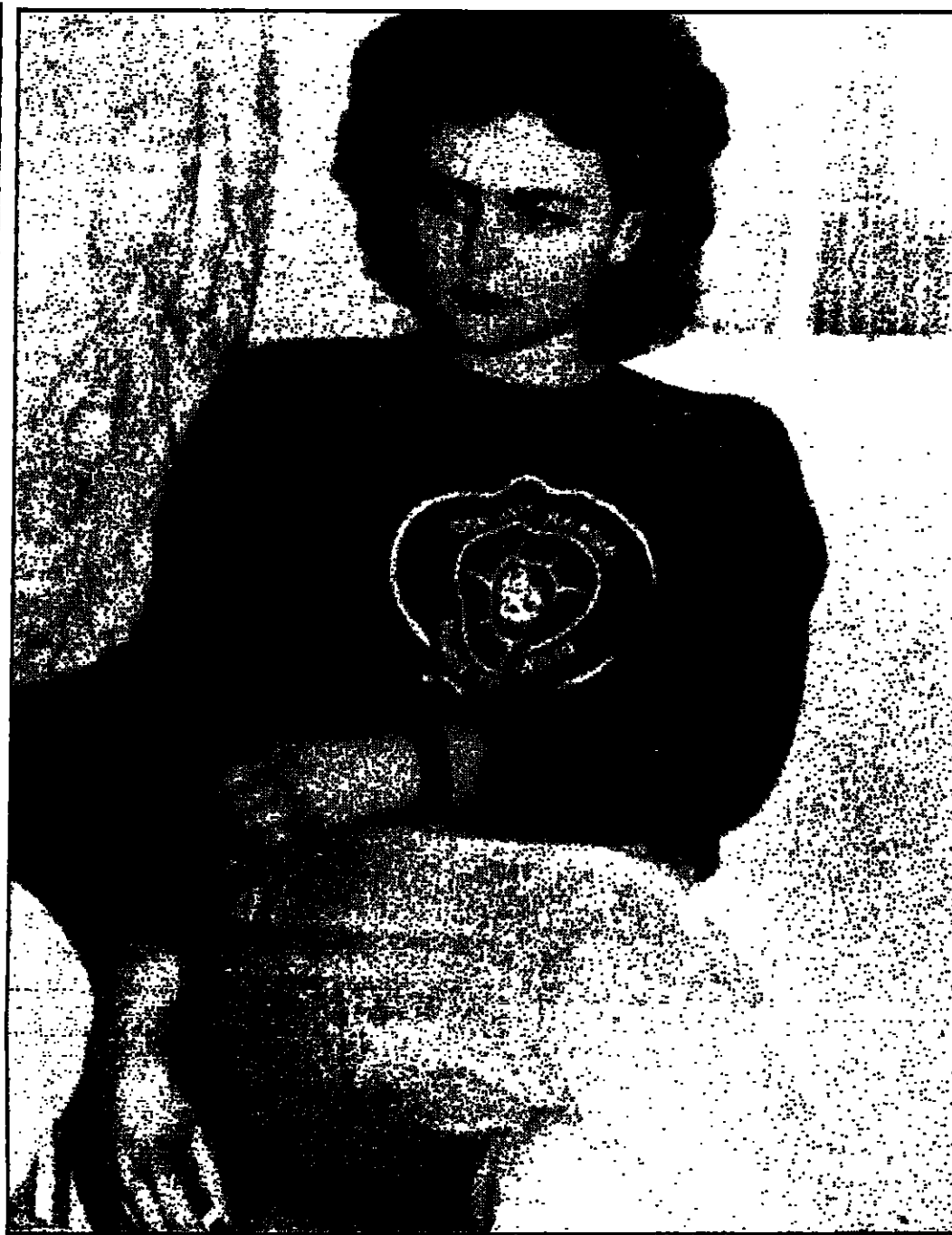
Sentencing is scheduled for Oct 24. Bakker faces a maximum 120 years prison sentence and fines totalling \$5 million.

Bakker took to the pulpit at the storefront church from which he and his wife have been broadcasting their new "Jim and Tammy show."

policy reversal was a federal law that states that the government cannot disqualify prospective employees persons because of blindness or other handicaps. It must also provide "reasonable accommodations" to help them overcome their handicaps.

In the past, the State Department has insisted on a general exemption from this law because of the unique circumstances under which diplomats must work.

Rabby, 47, had passed five State Department entrance examinations, since 1985 but has been attempting to join the Foreign Service since the mid-1970s.



Marina Ogilvy shown here during the interview she gave to Today. (Reuters wirephoto)

Love on the run A Royal blush

LONDON, Oct. 17. (AP): Marina Ogilvy is two months pregnant and refuses to marry the father until after the child is born. She says her parents are demanding they marry now or have an abortion.

This sad and commonplace tale of modern morality qualifies as a royal scandal, albeit a marginal one, because Miss Ogilvy is 24th in line to the throne, her mother being Queen Elizabeth II's first cousin.

The royal family has recently suffered the breakup of the marriage of Princess Anne, the queen's daughter. Now, say royal watchers, 23-year-old Miss Ogilvy has broken palace taboos by going public in lurid detail about her estrangement from her parents, Sir Angus Ogilvy and Princess Alexandra.

The affair took on bigger dimensions yesterday when Miss Ogilvy, clutching the hand of boyfriend Paul Mowatt, broadcast a tearful plea to her mother over BBC-TV.

"I want you to really stand by me and love me as a mother," she said in the taped interview with host Robert Kilroy-Silk.

Miss Ogilvy said, "We believe we are doing the right thing and it's what we want to do."

I don't agree that Marina should be pushed up the aisle into, as she, a shotgun wedding," Mowatt said. They said

the baby is due in May and they plan to marry sometime afterward.

Miss Ogilvy first went public in an interview published Oct 9 in Today, a London tabloid, in which she claimed her parents had tried to trick her into an abortion, disowned her and cut off her £100,000 (\$160,000) trust fund and £280 (\$450) monthly allowance.

Her parents, in brief statements from their official St James' Palace residence, denied being "cut off" from their daughter.

"Marina's parents sadly do not know where she is but Marina has their telephone numbers and they would love her to get in touch with them," said a statement issued Sunday night.

Kilroy-Silk duly obliged by asking one of his talkshow guests, a Royal-watching journalist who knows Miss Ogilvy, to give her parents the phone number.

The parents are making an official tour to India and Nepal later this week and "at the moment the tour has to proceed," said their spokeswoman, who requested anonymity.

Buckingham Palace, the Queen's residence, declined to comment.

Princess Alexandra, 52, receives £145,000 (\$230,000) annually from the money the state gives the Queen, and it pays mainly for official duties.

Bakker to go back on TV

ORLANDO, Florida, Oct. 17. (AP): Evangelist Jim Bakker says he will continue his television ministry, despite his conviction on fraud charges, as soon as he and his wife, Tammy Faye, can pay some bills.

"We are going back on television, whether it's me or Tammy or Tammy and me together," Bakker said Sunday on return to his New Covenant Church in Orlando.

Jail Gabor: prosecutor

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 17. (Reuters): Prosecutors have asked a judge to sentence Zsa Zsa Gabor to at least 30 days in jail for slapping a motorcycle policeman, district attorney Ira Reiner said yesterday.

But a new lawyer for the eight-times married actress won a delay yesterday, in her sentencing from today until October 24, claiming her original trial lawyer was incompetent.

Windsor women enjoy long life

Charles left in the wings

LONDON, Oct. 17. (UPI): Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, resumes her usual busy social and public schedule next month, little slowed by age and as beloved as ever as she enters her 90th year.

As she does, Britain's faithful royal-watchers are starting to wonder whether her daughter, Queen Elizabeth II, has inherited the tendency of Windsor women to enjoy long lives, and whether Prince Charles will come to the throne before he becomes a lot older.

The widow of King George VI, the Queen Mother remains one of the most popular and active members of the royal family despite having celebrated her 89th birthday on Aug. 4.

Referred to affectionately by most Britons as simply "The Queen Mum," she is beloved for her tireless round of royal engagements, fussy hats and outfits, love of horse racing and ready smile.

Her autumn schedule includes from two to four public engagements every week, including concerts, receptions, regimental visits, the naming of a railway train, remembrance services and opening a student residence. She also shares Queen Elizabeth's constitutional duties when the Queen is abroad.

Windsor trait Queen Elizabeth, herself now 63, shows every sign of living a similarly long and active life, a trait that seems to predominate among women of the house of Windsor, which came to tie British throne with King George V in 1917, said Hugo Vickers, an author and royal expert.

For Charles, who turns 41 on Nov 14, that could mean many years of waiting before he ascends to the role for which he has spent his life preparing.

"He's likely to go down in history as a Prince of Wales instead of as a king," Vickers said. Another expert predicted he would have a reign of only about 15 years.

That might disappoint some Britons, who would like to see Charles become king in the prime of his life accompanied by a young and glamorous queen in his wife Diana.

But other royal-watchers, such as Harold Brooks-Baker, publisher of a bible on the aristocracy Burke's Peerage, argue that Charles can actually do more for the country as prince because he remains free to express his political and socio-economic opinions.

"The restraints from parliament on the monarch do not pertain to the Prince of Wales," Brooks Baker said. "He can say and do virtually anything he likes."

Not fared too well Other royal heirs who have had to wait until their later years to take the throne have not fared too well.

King Edward VII, who was 59 at the death of his Mother Queen Victoria in 1901, was regarded as a man of great promise in his youth and played a key role in negotiating the Entente Cordiale



Prince Charles

with France, but spent a life of dissipation in his later years.

Jokes were made at the time of his coronation that if he had invited all his mistresses, there would have been no room for anyone else in Westminster Abbey.

Another who wine and dined the wait away was the Duke of Clarence, the eldest son of King Edward VII, who died mysteriously in 1892 before he could become King. Many people still believe he was the infamous Jack the Ripper, who killed five London women in 1888 and was never caught.

But unlike his predecessors, Charles has made a point of playing an active role in public life while waiting for the throne. He demonstrates a keen interest in farming, architecture and the environment among other issues. He has also shown talent as a singer, pilot and parachutist.

"He's had a far more liberal background," said David Williamson, co-editor of Debrett's Peerage. "He hasn't been suppressed by his parents."

Irrelevant comparison "the comparison with any previous prince royals is not really relevant," Brooks-Baker said. "Former Princes of Wales did nothing more in later years than go to parties. Here is a man who looks at all aspects of life."

"I think that even extreme left-wingers, including communists, look with pleasure at having the Prince of Wales as king one day."

Charles has made frequent speeches and one well-received television documentary on architecture, arguing that England should revitalise its inner cities by renovating old buildings instead of knocking them down.

In addition to his own interests, Charles has kept busy with tours of the British Commonwealth and with other public duties pressed on him by his mother.

"He's already far busier as Prince of Wales than any other king," Brooks-Baker said. "He is in many ways the real renaissance prince that this country has never had."

Smoking ban on flights

US Senate to approve bill

WASHINGTON, Oct. 17. (Reuters): Smoking will be banned on all US domestic flights except those longer than six hours to and from Alaska and Hawaii under legislation approved on last night by a Joint House-Senate committee.

The full Senate and House of Representatives must still approve the bill before it goes to President George Bush.

The smoking ban will take effect three months after the bill becomes law. It will also apply to

foreign airplanes when they fly through US cities.

"It will be a milestone in terms of reducing smoking exposure to those who don't smoke," Democratic Senator Frank Lautenberg said after the agreement was reached by members of the House and Senate appropriations committees.

The joint committee agreed to include the smoking restriction as part of an appropriations bill for the Transportation Department.

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INTERNATIONAL

Accord on ivory ban but 5 ignore

LAUSANNE, Oct 17, (AP): Delegates from 91 nations agreed yesterday to halt trade in ivory, but five African countries immediately declared they would continue selling it anyway.

A last-minute proposal, which passed 76-11 with 4 abstentions, placed African elephants on the endangered list and allowed South African nations to apply for exemptions to a special panel of experts.

The vote came during a 10-day meeting of the convention on trade in endangered species. It prompted a loud cheer from environmentalists and delegates who pushed for a ban in an effort to save Africa's dwindling elephant population.

The measure must be confirmed in a plenary session before the session ends on Friday but delegates called that only a formality.

It amounts to at least a two-year ban, since no exemptions are likely to be considered before the group's next meeting.

"We think this was a good compromise, a place to work from," said Conny Harriman, head of the US delegation which championed East Africa's bid for a total ban.

"This is the best we could do, now we must try to work together," said Costa Mlay, Tanzania's director of wildlife.

But Roman Martin, director of research for Zimbabwe's wildlife department was bitter.

"They forced seven countries who seemed to be doing well at conservation out of the convention," he said.

But the organisation's rules, members can declare reservations within 90 days allowing them to trade with any other reserving states in the group, or with countries outside it.

Zimbabwe, Malawi, Mozambique, Botswana and Burundi said they would file reservations. Japan, which has regularly consumed about 40 per cent of world ivory exports, declined comment on its position.

"Our attitude will be determined in Tokyo," Kiyohiko Arafuni, the acting delegation head, told reporters.

Martin said southern Africans would have no trouble finding markets even without Japan.

"That's the crazy part," he said. "There are 67 non-parties to the convention. Think of all those Arab states that would be happy to take over all that trade."

Hong Kong said today it would abide by a total ban on the world ivory trade even though the government believes such a ban may encourage more elephant poaching.

Deputy director of the Hong Kong agriculture and fisheries department Tony Bennett said decision by 76 nations in support of a total moratorium made it likely the ban would be formally adopted by the United Nations.

35 killed in Peru violence

LIMA, Oct 17, (AP): Thirty people, including women and children, were killed in a guerrilla ambush of two trucks carrying soldiers and civilians in Peru's northeastern jungle, police said yesterday.

In other attacks, Shinning Path rebels killed three village council members in Munani, 615 miles (990 kms) southeast of Lima, and two peasants in the village of Chongos Bajos, 140 miles (230 kms) east of the capital.

The attacks and the ambush continued a wave of violence that has taken the lives of 215 people in October.

Police said 17 civilians, including some women and children, 10 guerrillas and three soldiers were killed when rebels hidden in the jungle on both sides of the road ambushed the two trucks near the town of Tocache, 260 miles (430 kms) northeast of Lima.

Victim families win case

Court rules against Pan Am

WASHINGTON, Oct 17, (AP): The US Supreme Court yesterday refused to free Pan American World Airways from having to pay \$951,500 plus interest to two families of 1974 crash victims.

The justices, without comment, left intact the awards stemming from the April 22, 1974, crash in Indonesia of a Pan Am plane flying from Hong Kong to Los Angeles. All 96 passengers and 11 crew members died in the accident.

Lawyers for Pan Am say the airline's liability should not have exceeded \$75,000

per victim.

Numerous lawsuits were filed after the crash, and all but three cases were settled. The unsettled suits centred on the deaths of John and Virginia Causey of the United States, and John Ryder, identified in court documents only as a citizen of Australia.

Treaties set the \$75,000-per-passenger liability limit for deaths in international flight crashes. But the Causey and Ryder families contended that the limit should not apply because Pan Am had been guilty of willful misconduct.

A federal jury in California concluded that the airline had committed willful misconduct by entrusting the flight to an incompetent pilot.

The Causey family was awarded \$300,000 in damages; the Ryder family \$651,500.

In the appeal lawyers for Pan Am said a special report compiled by the federal aviation administration after its investigation of the Pan Am crash in Indonesia and earlier accidents wrongly was admitted as trial evidence.



Praying for peace

A Salvadoran woman prays during an ecumenical church service held in the Central Cathedral, San Salvador. The service, held in support of the dialogue between FMLN and the ARENA government, was part of an all-night vigil to show support for a negotiated solution to the 10-year-old civil war. (Reuters wirephoto).

ment, was part of an all-night vigil to show support for a negotiated solution to the 10-year-old civil war. (Reuters wirephoto).

Salvadoran talks open

Rebels reject peace offer

MORAVIA, Costa Rica, Oct 17, (AP): El Salvador's leftist guerrillas rejected a government peace proposal as talks opened on ending that country's 10-year-old civil war, saying the offer was a call for surrender.

News of the deadlock leaked yesterday when both sides took a break in negotiations and talked to reporters.

The rebels were meeting for a second time with the government led by rightist President Alfredo Cristiani, who took office in June. The talks were to last through today.

"We say it's just a call for unconditional surrender," said Joaquin Villalobos, a leader of the rebel Farabundo National Liberation Front.

But Justice Minister Oscar Santamaría, who is heading the Cristiani delegation, called the government proposal "serious and responsible."

A copy of the government offer obtained by the Associated Press calls for the rebels to cease hostilities by Wednesday, demobilise immediately and organise to participate in elections and the country's

political life.

It implicitly rejects a rebel proposal for a ceasefire in exchange for a government promise to undertake wide political and social reforms, purge the armed forces of rightist officers, and negotiate a permanent end to hostilities.

"We are not asking anyone to surrender," government spokesman Juan Martínez Varela said. He refused to answer further questions.

The government proposal promises only to "half military operations without prejudice that the armed forces carry out their constitutional duties." It offers guarantees for rebels' safety, along with food and medical assistance.

"Basically, the government proposal is to stop the fighting, without basis or discussion simply silence the guns," Villalobos said. "This is an absurd, illogical and inflexible scheme."

The United States said yesterday that some Nicaraguan rebels were selling off their US-supplied arms to anti-government guerrillas in El Salvador but insisted it was not an organised effort.



Policemen on strike

LIMA, Peru, Oct 17, (AP): Hundreds of policemen walked off their jobs yesterday in this violence-plagued capital, and at least one man was reportedly killed in a shootout between strikers and a police patrol.

Strikers outside the police headquarters in downtown Lima clashed with officers leaving the building to patrol

the city early yesterday. The two groups exchanged punches, fired pistols into the air and lobbed tear-gas grenades at one another, witnesses said.

Picture shows members of the Peruvian special forces stand guard near police headquarters. (Reuters wirephoto)

CIA is seeking a free hand

NEW YORK, Oct 17, (Reuters): Central Intelligence Agency Director William Webster was quoted today as urging the easing of curbs on US involvement in coups that could result in the death of a country's leader.

In an interview with the New York Times, Webster referred specifically to the Oct 3 attempt against Panamanian leader General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

He suggested that a longstanding presidential executive order barring US involvement in assassinations had severely limited the CIA's ability to deal with the coup plotters.

The executive order was adopted in 1976 by former president Gerald Ford after a congressional probe detailed the CIA's role in assassination plots against Cuban President Fidel Castro and other foreign leaders.

When asked if he would like the interpretation to be relaxed, Webster said, "I don't think you're misreading me."

"The United States does not engage in selective, individual assassination," Webster was quoted as saying.

"But the United States has other important overriding concerns about security and protecting democracy in areas of the world where it has a legitimate claim of interest," he said. "And when despots take over, there has to be a means to deal with that sort of making us (out) to be hired killers."

The CIA director said the order bars the United States from devising a plan to assassinate Noriega.

"Now the next thing is, hire a guy to kill Noriega or hire a group who wants to kill Noriega," he said. "Our executive order would have in the past been construed at least that we could not do that because we would just be using someone else to do what we couldn't do ourselves."

"Now it begins to get a little tighter when you say, 'here's a group that says it doesn't plan to kill him, but they're going to have to play rough and it could happen.' Now we're in the area that has to be addressed."

Asked if the order had played a key role in the failure of the Panamanian coup, Webster said he was uncertain.

But he said the order "could very well make a difference in the next one because the likelihood of the next plotter planning that he may probably have to take Noriega out is real."

Webster said he thought Noriega's days were numbered, but he declined to predict how long the Panamanian strongman might remain in power "because we haven't been very good at that."

Webster said he had detected a willingness on the part of Bush and some members of Congress to reinterpret the order to provide the CIA with greater latitude in aiding coup planners, while somehow preserving the ban on assassinations.

"We all need to look at this and say, 'have we pushed this beyond a practical effectiveness? Have we extended the executive order beyond its intended original meaning by both the White House and Congress?'" he said.

Unnamed White House officials told the Times that various drafts of a new interpretation had been circulated, but none had been adopted and senior officials anticipate lengthy discussions about the issue with the Senate and House Intelligence Committees.



Top: Partial view of the destroyed Colombian daily Vanguardia Liberal Oct 16. Over 50 kilos of dynamite left in a car in front of the paper killed four people and caused extensive damage. Bottom: Clean up crews remove debris from the destroyed paper office. (Reuters wirephoto)

Bogota judge gunned down

Newspaper office bombed

BOGOTA, Oct 17, (AP): A federal judge was gunned down today as he waited on a Medellin street corner for a ride to work, and an anonymous caller reportedly said drug traffickers killed him in retaliation for extraditions to the United States.

Police said judge Hector Jimenez Rodriguez was shot six times by a passenger on a motorcycle.

The gunman got off the motorcycle, walked up to Jimenez and shot him, the Colombian radio chain Caracol quoted witnesses as saying in Medellin, the base of the country's most notorious cocaine cartel.

Any anonymous caller to Caracol in Medellin said the judge was slain by "The Extraditables," a group of suspected drug traffickers being hunted for extradition to the United States.

The government of President Virgilio Barco has extradited four Colombians to the United States, including three last Saturday, since a crackdown on drug trafficking began on Aug 19.

"The Extraditables" said in a communique soon after the crackdown began that they would kill 10 judges for every Colombian extradited. Jimenez was the first judge killed since the drug sweep started. It was not immediately known if Jimenez had been involved in any recent extradition cases.

There are varying figures on the number of judges that have been killed in Colombia, but the

Justice Ministry says that about 50 judges and 170 judicial employees have died since 1981. The association of judicial employees says 1,600 of Colombia's 5,000 judges have been threatened with death in the last 12 months.

Meanwhile, the newspaper Vanguardia Liberal of Bucaramanga, heavily damaged by a bomb yesterday that killed four employees, published a 16-page edition today. The newspaper had joined in a condemnation of cocaine barons, and its publishers blamed the drug barons for the bombings.

There had been doubts that Vanguardia Liberal would be able to publish today. It usually publishes 24 pages each day. The car bomb wrecked its building in northeastern Colombia.

The attack on Vanguardia was the second major bombing of a newspaper since the government began its crackdown. A car bomb seriously damaged the El Espectador offices in Bogota last month. The paper's directors have said since that it is near bankruptcy.

Four journalists were assassinated by unidentified gunmen last week in the cities of Medellin and Monteria.

Three suspected Colombian drug traffickers were taken to separate US federal courts under heavy security yesterday after being extradited to the United States over the weekend.

Panama axes disloyal workers

PANAMA CITY, Oct 17, (AP): The Panamanian government started pruning the public payroll of allegedly disloyal workers yesterday while General Manuel Antonio Noriega continued restructuring the military.

Noriega named close collaborators to several key posts over the weekend, but many important jobs, including that of chief of intelligence, remained open.

The former head of intelligence, Col Guillermo Wong, was among those arrested after a botched Oct 3 coup, and the failure to name a new director suggested Noriega might be having trouble finding enough trustworthy senior officers to fill out the command structure.

Planning and Economic Policy Minister Gustavo Gonzalez told journalists there would be no "massive firings" of public employees, but added that the public payroll must be reduced.

"We do not have a budget," Gustavo Gonzalez told reporters during a luncheon with the Bankers Association. "We are operating on a cash flow basis and that flow is now about 50 per cent of what it was two years ago."

Embargo Panama's economy has been hurt badly by a US economic embargo imposed after Noriega was indicted on US drug trafficking and money laundering charges in February 1988.

Noriega claims the charges and the coup attempt are part of a US plot to remove him and retain control of the Panama canal, due to be turned over to Panama at the end of 1999.

Bankers Association president Edgardo Lasso said lack of confidence caused by the sanctions and political instability had caused an unprecedented recession.

Gonzalez said high level public officials had suffered salary reductions ranging from 20 to 30 per cent. "That includes General Noriega," he said.

One public employee told journalists on condition of anonymity that she and four others had been accused of "conspiring against the state" and were fired.

Government officials, including Noriega, who controls the government through command of the Panamanian Defence Forces, urged the dismissal of public employees who celebrated or showed disloyalty while the attempted coup was in process.

New "war laws" announced by Noriega following the coup included disloyalty among the reasons for dismissal of public employees.

Meanwhile, the government announced that a special International Monetary Fund mission would come to Panama to "evaluate the country's situation and study measures the government is considering to improve the economic situation."

Panama's foreign debt now stands at \$3.8 billion. The country is \$1.2 billion in arrears in interest and principal payments.

The arrests of Wong and three others on the general staff following the coup indicated widespread dissatisfaction with Noriega in the Defence Forces. Many of Noriega's new appointments were relatively junior officers that have worked with him in the past.

Capt. Rafael Gaytan, who for the past two years had been director of Noriega's personal security, was named director of the Special Anti-Terrorist Forces, an elite unit that reportedly was blocked by US forces from coming to Noriega's aid the day of the coup.

However, there have been reports that the anti-terrorist unit, like other units, had not moved quickly enough or had "hesitated" to see which way the coup would go before intervening in reassignment.

Capt. Rafael Codeno, another officer close to Noriega, was named deputy director of intelligence. Codeno has worked closely with Noriega since the early 80s.

Capt. Rafael Jurado was named commander of the 2nd military zone near the Costa Rican border and Col Roberto Armijo was named director of personnel, replacing Col Julio Ow Young, one of the men arrested in connection with the coup.

Latin America isolating Panama, turning Noriega into an outcast

JCA, Peru, Oct 17, (AP): Latin American countries, enjoying an unusual wave of civilian rule, are turning Panama's Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega into an outcast in a region long ruled by repressive military regimes.

But whether this open rejection can contribute to Noriega's downfall from power is questionable.

The widespread criticism and isolation of one nation's de facto ruler by other Latin American leaders hasn't been seen since Rafael Leonidas Trujillo, dictator of the Dominican Republic, and Cusa's Fidel Castro received similar treatment in the early 1960s. No pro-Noriega voices are being heard.

But the Latin American leaders stopped short at a

summit last week of endorsing direct US intervention against Noriega. They still stand for the return of the Panama Canal by the United States to Panama in the year 2000.

And history shows that in the cases of Trujillo and Castro, regional pressure had little effect. Trujillo resisted denunciations from elsewhere in Latin America until he was assassinated in 1961 in a plot organised by some of his own generals. Castro is still in power in Cuba.

The seven Latin American leaders, meeting last week in this desert city 180 miles (300 kilometres) southeast of Lima, condemned "the continued lack of democracy and human rights violations" in Panama.

They decided to maintain the "indefinite suspension" of the Noriega regime from the group of eight, an informal political consultation group of which Panama was a founding member three years ago.

At the same time, however, the presidents of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Peru, Mexico, Uruguay and Venezuela declared that the 1978 treaty signed by the United States and Panama for the transfer of the canal to Panama in the year 2000 should be fully respected.

Peruvian President Alan Garcia, who two years ago extended the red carpet to Noriega when he visited Lima, has turned into one of the most vocal critics of the Pan-

amanian general.

Addressing the opening session of the meeting, Garcia said he was using the occasion "to express publicly the Peruvian people's and the Peruvian government's repudiation and condemnation of the military dictatorship."

Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, who once maintained warm relations with Noriega, called his regime "a masked dictatorship."

Peruvian Foreign Minister Guillermo Larco Cox said, "we cannot allow a country like Panama that scoffs at and ridicules the democratic system to continue with us."

Iowa blast due to chem bomb

WASHINGTON, Oct 17, (AP): Navy experts say a chemical bomb placed between gunpowder bags caused the explosion that blew up a gun turret and killed 47 sailors aboard the USS Iowa, according to a report published today.

A study by the navy, the contents of which were disclosed by the Washington Post, concluded that a container of fuel, such as hydraulic fluid, put inside a bag with an oxidiser was the cause of the explosion last April aboard the battleship.

Earlier theories that an electrical device was inserted between the powder bags have been ruled out by navy explosive experts, the paper said.

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Yeltsin claims Kremlin out to get him

MOSCOW, Oct 17, (Reuters): Reformist politician Boris Yeltsin said today the Soviet leadership was trying to discredit him with an accusation that he fabricated a claim of an assassination attempt.

Interior Minister Vadim Bakatin told an incredulous Supreme Soviet, the inner parliament, yesterday that a soaking-wet Yeltsin had gone to the authorities one night last month saying someone had thrown him into the Moscow river.

"This is not a question for a meeting of the Supreme Soviet," Yeltsin said during a break in today's session of parliament.

"It is the wish of the leadership to discredit a deputy, to diminish his authority and to distract the voters from more painful subjects."

The plain-spoken former Moscow party chief, plagued by allegations that he drank his way through a US lecture tour, repeated his denials that he had been assaulted.

"I can only repeat what I said, that there were no attacks on me," he said, adding that on the night in question he had attended a meeting with voters in a Moscow district.

The populist politician went on to reject a series of reports about him.

"The rumours that I had a heart attack, an auto accident or was about to die were just rumours," he said.

"As Mark Twain said, the rumours of my death were greatly exaggerated."

The incident is the worst scandal to hit the revamped Soviet parliament and seemed certain to raise questions about the conduct of the Moscow deputy, who enjoys huge popular appeal.

Past accusations against Yeltsin of drunken behaviour and a Communist Party investigation into election statements he made earlier this year appeared to boost rather than diminish his popularity.

Bakatin said Yeltsin had appeared at a police station on the night of September 28 and said someone had tried to kill him.

"Unknown persons dragged him into a car and put a sack over his head. He was dragged out of the car and thrown off a bridge in the Moscow river," Bakatin said.

"Having swum 300 metres (yards) down river, he climbed out, had a rest and went to the police."

US ready to advise Soviets on reforms

Moscow criticised for disturbing actions

NEW YORK, Oct 17, (Agencies): The United States is ready to promote Soviet economic reform, Secretary of State James Baker said. But he criticised Moscow for "disturbing actions" around the world.

"We want perestroika to succeed," Baker told the private Foreign Policy Association last night in the Bush administration's warmest statement of support so far for Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's attempts at economic, social and political reform.

"The Soviets are entering very, very uncharted waters, experimenting with markets, competitive enterprises, and realistic pricing, all of which we take for granted," Baker said.

Washington stands ready to help Moscow with advice on price reform and the development of a convertible currency, Baker said.

The Soviets already have consulted top officials such as federal reserve chairman Alan Greenspan and Wayne Angell, a member of the Fed's board of governors, in Moscow on technical problems in reorganising their economy.

But Baker said trade "must be on a straight commercial basis."

Baker denied that a more prosperous Soviet Union would be a more dangerous enemy. He said Gorbachev's economic restructuring "really

Ease gag, UK tells Bulgaria

Baker tempered his praise by charging that the Soviets were reluctant to withdraw from regional conflicts.

He said Soviet arms shipments to Afghanistan and Ethiopia were surging and had doubled in Cambodia over last year.

"These disturbing actions, this seeming preference for military solutions, may work in the short run to keep a Najibullah or a Hun Sen or a Mengistu in power," Baker said, referring to the Soviet-backed leaders of Afghanistan, Cambodia and Ethiopia.

SOFIA, Oct 17, (Reuters): Britain urged hard-line communist Bulgaria today to ease its clamp-down on the country's fledgling dissident movement, saying human rights activists and ecologists had been harassed.

Addressing a 35-nation environmental conference in Sofia, Sir Anthony Williams said: "We urge the Bulgarian government to avoid any renewed harassment to Eco-Glasnost and to allow it and any other similar groups to carry on their legitimate activities."



Remembering prisoners
A child lights a candle in front of Gettesmane last evening in East Berlin for the political prisoners who were not set free last week by the East German authorities. (Reuters wirephoto)

Baker said the Soviets could save billions of dollars by cutting ties to regional clients.

Despite the regional tensions, Baker said "an historic opportunity" exists for the superpowers to leave behind "the ups and downs of the cold war."

"The prospects for a lasting improvement in US-Soviet relations are better than ever before," he said, citing Soviet arms control measures designed to prevent war and Gorbachev's promises to turn tanks into tractors.

Other Western delegates have referred to Bulgaria's unofficial groups but Williams, head of the British delegation, went further, hyping by name leading dissident Konstantin Trenchev, who was freed from prison last month after three months' detention without trial.

The three-week Sofia forum is discussing international cooperation on environmental problems. It was organised by the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE).

E. Germany to discuss reform

Protests in five cities

Baker also offered strong US support for reconciliation between the two Germanies, saying it was "time for perestroika and glasnost to come to East Germany."

He made it clear, however, that a reconciled Germany should not be neutral or east-west leaning, but with the "people integrated into the community of democratic European nations" on the basis of Western values.

Members of the eight-month-old Eco-Glasnost and Bulgaria's political dissidents say they have been harassed by police and prevented from holding public meetings.

The authorities appear to have slackened restrictions on the groups for the three-week conference and Eco-Glasnost spokesman Petar Beron said the groups would use the opportunity to get as much public and foreign attention as possible.

BERLIN, Oct 17, (AP): The Communist Party promised today to discuss critical issues facing the country in an "atmosphere of openness," following a night of protests in five East German cities by thousands of people demanding reform.

East Germany's ruling party politburo was scheduled later today to hold its regular weekly meeting, during which hardline leader Erich Honecker was expected to again come under heavy attack.

In the capital, the party newspaper Neues Deutschland emphasised that the country's socialist system would stay firmly in place and listed the groups with which the government is willing to discuss reforms, notably excluding the leading pro-democracy group Neues Forum (New Forum).

Some critics have argued Gorbachev's success at reforms would be dangerous for the West because they would make the Soviet Union economically as well as militarily strong.

More than anything else, protests in East Germany and the hints East German leaders may be starting to consider reforms has prompted US officials and analysts to begin thinking about a Europe without a divided Germany.

The United States and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation have long advocated a reunified Germany but how that would take place and what form it would take has not been thought out.

West German Environment Minister Klaus Töpfer, who has also urged Bulgaria to improve its human rights record, met Eco-Glasnost leaders and Trenchev's wife Koyana.

Trenchev, chairman of Bulgaria's unofficial trade union Pochrepa (support), was arrested with five other dissidents after they signed a petition in support of Bulgaria's ethnic Turkish minority.

More than 310,000 ethnic Turks have left Bulgaria for Turkey since May, fleeing what they say is a campaign of forced cultural assimilation. Bulgaria denies they are Turks, saying they are Bulgarians converted to Islam during Ottoman rule.

Also today, a Dresden court sentenced three men to prison for taking part in earlier demonstrations there, the official news agency ADN reported.

Last night, more than 120,000 pro-democracy activists took to the streets in Leipzig, activists said. The crowd estimate, if true, would make the protest the largest in East Germany's 40-year history.

Some protesters chanted "power to the young people" and "Erich, lead reforms or go to a retirement home," sources said.

Hungary debates

BUDAPEST, Oct 17, (Agencies): Parliament today resumes debate on key legislation designed to establish the legal preconditions for multi-party elections due next year.

The meeting comes a week after the ruling Communist Party dissolved itself and formed a new Socialist Party.

The bills before parliament this week include one on the functioning of political parties, the establishment of a constitutional court and a new electoral law.

Meanwhile, radical opposition groups fought today to prevent a leader of Hungary's former Communist Party Imre Pozsgay, from being installed as the country's executive president before multi-party parliamentary elections are held next year.

The ruling party hoped to install Imre Pozsgay, a popular reformer, as president after an election in November.

Several thousand people had tried to enter the station in an attempt to board a train filled with East German refugees who had been given passage from West Germany's embassy in Prague, Czechoslovakia, to the West. The building had been cordoned off by security forces.

In its commentary today, the party newspaper pointed out that the paper in recent days had addressed "many critical questions, constructive suggestions and new starting points."

Honecker, 77, has steadfastly resisted pro-democracy reforms. But he is also reportedly under mounting pressure to step down because of the huge protests and exodus of tens of thousands of citizens to the West.

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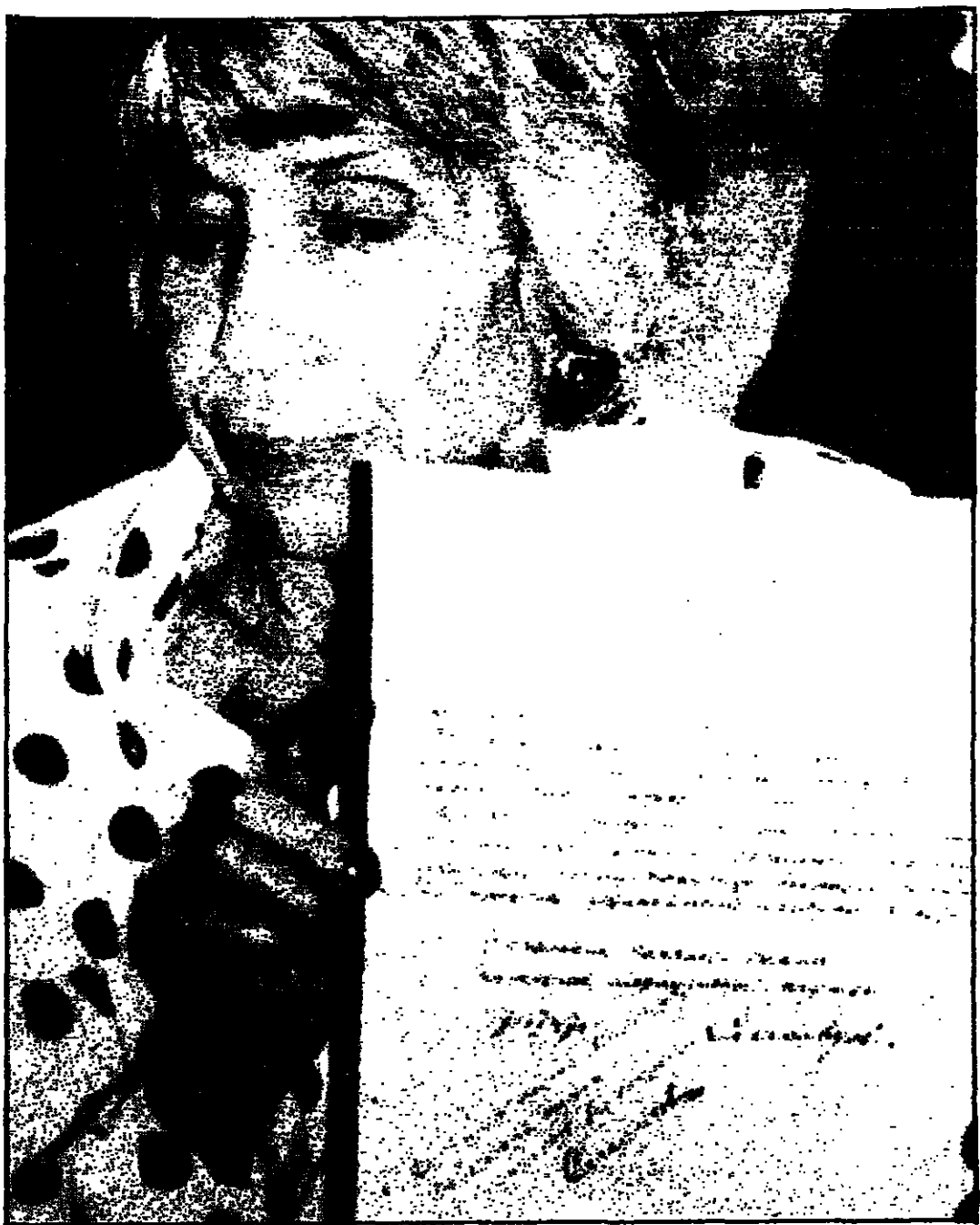
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German refugees flying to West

WARSAW, Poland, Oct 17, (AP): The first group of more than 1,300 East German refugees allowed to renounce their citizenship in Warsaw were to fly West today, an official said, as West Germany pressed for accelerated processing of the others.

"We expect the first group to be flown out today," said West German Foreign Ministry spokesman Peter Rothen in Bonn. He said it would be a charter flight, but it was not yet known to which West German airport it would travel.



Proof of death
Swedish Raoul Wallenberg Association's secretary Sonia Sonnenfeld shows the original report by a prison doctor noting the Swede's death while in custody during a press conference at Moscow's Swedish embassy. (Reuters wirephoto)

Diplomatic sources in Warsaw said the flight would probably take place in the evening, to allow an additional 50 or 80 East Germans to be released from citizenship during the day so they could board the flight.

The same sources said a likely destination was Dusseldorf, but that no firm decision had been made.

The Polish Lot Airlines said it was prepared to fly the refugees on behalf of the West German embassy and is waiting for a formal request.

Soviets sorry Wallenberg affair a folly

MOSCOW, Oct 17, (AP): Nearly 45 years after Raoul Wallenberg was arrested by the Soviets in Budapest and vanished, a KGB official apologised for the arrest and handed the Swedish diplomat's personal effects to his relatives yesterday.

"It was terribly emotional to see his handwriting and his photograph and his identity papers," said Nina Lagergren, who received the passport, driver's licence, address book, calendar and cash her half-brother carried when he was arrested in January 1945, during World War II.

Regret over psy abuse

ATHENS, Greece, Oct 17, (AP): A Soviet official said yesterday that the Kremlin regrets the past use of psychiatry as a political weapon.

The comment by Peter Morozov, the secretary of international relations for the state-sanctioned All-Union Society of Soviet Psychiatrists, was a departure from the Kremlin view that has only hinted at possible, isolated cases of abuse in the Soviet Union.

"It's clear that we regret our past, not only (political) abuses but the whole system," his comments came on the eve of a vote by the world psychiatric association on whether to readmit the Soviet group to its ranks.

The Soviet group was forced to withdraw from the world body in 1983 under threat of expulsion because of allegations that dissidents in the Soviet Union were being certified as insane and interned in mental hospitals.

"We know of a lot of cases (of political abuse) that have been reported on medical or legal grounds," Morozov said. "Now, we want (Western) psychiatrists to come and see suspicious cases and visit psychiatric hospitals."

Earlier yesterday, Soviet officials told a news conference that Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's policy of reforming society has led to changes in psychiatric practices in the Soviet Union.

Yuri Reshetov, the head of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Human Rights Department, said the government has not yet appointed the members of an independent Soviet commission to monitor Soviet psychiatry.

"We were amazed at how quickly and professionally they (the East German embassy) handled us today," one man who received his exit papers told reporters.

Hans Klein, the chief West German spokesman in Bonn, said his government had asked the East Germans to process the travel papers for the refugees in groups larger than the 40 to 50 first proposed.

He said no immediate response came from East Berlin.

"It's obvious that the East Germans do not want to have another spectacular passage" of hundreds of refugees, Klein said, acknowledging that technical problems could limit the number of requests processed daily.

In Warsaw, East German Ambassador Juergen van Zwoil said, "We are interested in speeding up this operation, but this does not depend solely on us. Verification in the GDR (East Germany) is necessary. We cannot allow some murderers to leave, for instance."

After receiving their exit documents, the refugees were taken to the West German embassy for new citizenship papers.

East German authorities required the refugees to give up their citizenship before they would provide new identity cards allowing them to leave for the country of their choice, without crossing East Germany.

The arrangement with the East German embassy is open ended, and new refugees arrived at the West German compound even as the first group was preparing to leave. Diplomatic sources estimated as many as 200 came yesterday.

The exodus from Poland is part of a larger flood of more than 52,000 East German refugees who have reached West Germany since Sept 10, when Hungary opened its border to Austria. Another 70,000 emigrated legally this year, or did not return home after visiting West Germany.

Departure plans from Poland were still incomplete this morning.

Passing information to Soviets

Nesbitt held without bond

ALEXANDRIA, Virginia, Oct 17, (AP): A federal magistrate yesterday granted a government request to order Frank Arnold Nesbitt, charged with passing information to the Soviets, held without bond pending a further court hearing.

Magistrate Curtis Sewell agreed with assistant US attorney Deborah Young, who cited the severity of the charge and a risk that Nesbitt, 44, might flee the country.

Nesbitt was arrested Saturday at a hotel in nearby McLean, Virginia, outside Washington, and charged with communication and delivery and the attempt to communicate and deliver unauthorised information to agents of the Soviet government, according to a brief FBI statement.

The affidavit supporting Nesbitt's arrest remained sealed, authorities said.

Protest at detentions

MOSCOW, Oct 17, (Reuters): The Soviet Union has protested at the US detention of two Soviet majors in West Berlin, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Gennady Gerasimov said yesterday.

He added that the Americans had said they had no case against the men.

US officials say the two officers were detained in West Berlin on Saturday after they were caught trying to obtain defence secrets from a US airman. The pair were questioned, then released to Soviet officials in East Berlin.

Gerasimov told a news conference that the Soviet officers were stopped by American military police for an identity check.

He said they were then brought to the US military commandant's office where they were accused of "illegitimate activities" — diplomatic parlance for spying.

"Having no evidence to corroborate the charges, the Americans released the Soviet officers," Gerasimov said.

Britain, Argentina open talks on ties

MADRID, Oct 17, (Reuters): Britain and Argentina opened talks today on a possible resumption of relations broken off during the 10-week war fought in 1982 over the Falkland Islands.

The five-strong delegations, led by British Ambassador to the United Nations Sir Crispin Tickell and veteran Argentine diplomat Lucio Garcia El Solar, met at the residence of a British diplomat in a Madrid suburb.

A second round of talks is scheduled for tomorrow at the residence of the Argentine ambassador.

Tickell told reporters the talks would cover trade, fisheries, airline communications and other issues, and could continue through Thursday.

The two sides have agreed to leave aside the issue of sovereignty of the South Atlantic islands, which Argentina calls the Malvinas, which proved the stumbling block at a first round of negotiations five years ago.

Diplomatic sources said the talks could lead to a resumption of consular ties. Britain is seeking a formal declaration from Argentina ending the state of war.

INTERNATIONAL

C'wealth to take up SA sanctions

Summit opens today in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 17. (UPI) Leaders of the Commonwealth nations today finalised tactics to beef up anti-apartheid sanctions against South Africa as Malaysia fielded massive precautions against terrorist attacks.

Helicopters hovered overhead and 74,000 armed police officers scoured the streets of the capital as leaders from 47 nations gathered for the weeklong Commonwealth heads of government meeting that opens tomorrow.

Immediately confronting the 2,000 delegates was the thorny question of the next secretary-general. Member countries were divided between former Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser and Nigerian chief Emeke Anyaoku, a former diplomat who currently serves as deputy secretary-general.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Literature Nobel on Thursday: The winner of the Nobel prize for literature will be announced this Thursday, the awarding body said today.

The Swedish Academy, a 203-year-old institution created to safeguard the Swedish language and literature, will announce the winner at 1 pm (1200 GMT) from its 18th-century headquarters in Stockholm's old town.

Irish poet Seamus Heaney has been the only candidate tipped so far in the Swedish media, by the weekly "VI" magazine. Some informed speculation said the prize also might go to an East European writer. (AP)

Theodorakis switching sides: Mikis Theodorakis, the popular communist composer who wrote the music for "Zorba the Greek" is switching sides in Greece's November election and running for parliament as a conservative New Democracy candidate.

Theodorakis and Conservative Party leader Constantine Mitsotakis said after a meeting yesterday that the composer would be included in the New Democracy leadership list, ensuring him a place in the 300-seat parliament.

A life-long communist who has been imprisoned several times for his beliefs, Theodorakis served as a Communist Party deputy in parliament from 1981 until 1987. (Reuters)

Airliner catches fire: A Soviet airliner carrying 180 passengers caught fire at Murtala Muhammed International Airport while preparing to take off, but the passengers were evacuated with only minor injuries, airport sources said.

The source, who declined to be identified, said the incident occurred Saturday. The Soviet Ambassador to Nigeria, Yuri Kouphakov, was among those injured while leaving the smoking Aeroflot Tupolev 154. The plane had taxied to the runway and was preparing to take off when two of its engines caught fire and the plane was quickly engulfed in smoke, the source said. The aircraft was on a flight to Moscow. (AP)

Detective kills gunman: A detective was shot to death by his former business partner in a police fund-raising business, authorities said. The gunman was killed by shots fired by the mortally wounded detective.

The gunman had also apparently killed his wife earlier yesterday. Police found her body in their home when they went to tell her that her husband was dead, said police Lt. Paul Sauculo.

Detective Norman Montion died of gunshot wounds suffered in the shootout with Richard Stratton in the office of police officers Promotions Inc., authorities said.

Two office employees were wounded, one seriously. (AP)

Cricket catches damage fields: The cricket wars are laying waste to Shanghai fields, an official newspaper reported today.

Nearly 700 hectares (1,700 acres) of fields have been damaged and 100,000 square metres (1 million square feet) of city scrubby trampled by people hunting at night for bugs to use in cricket fighting contests, the China Daily said, quoting a Shanghai newspaper.

It said 1,000 people in the city of 14 million make their living by dealing in crickets. At one market, some 10,000 crickets are sold daily for an estimated 200,000 to 300,000 yuan (\$54,000 to \$81,000). (AP)

Typhoons kill 63: A series of three typhoons killed 63 people, left 15 missing and injured 712 in the south China province of Hainan, the New China News Agency said today.

The three typhoons hit the island between Oct 2 and 13, it said, adding that it was rare for so many to strike within such a short space of time. The typhoons blew down 30 million rubber trees, damaged 182,000 hectares (450,000 acres) of rice paddy, destroyed roads and disrupted communications in 12 cities and counties, it said. (Reuters)

Dutch face tax increase: Dutch taxpayers, whose country is known for its generous social programmes, now face a tax increase to foot the bill.

A tax hike of 2.2 billion guilders (\$1.04 billion) for individuals and businesses, aimed at increasing national revenues by about one-half of a percent, is called for under a new political platform published yesterday. The tax increase is the key element in the platform hammered out by Premier Ruud Lubbers builds his third government. It follows a seven-point programme of fiscal austerity and spending cuts.

Papa meets Mitterrand: Embattled former Greek Premier Andreas Papandreu met French President Francois Mitterrand today in a friendly exchange during a meeting yesterday.

Papandreu, who was ousted from office last year, denied the meeting was intended to help the Greek Socialist Movement's chances in upcoming elections. He said the chief election issue is Papandreu's alleged involvement in the political scandal.

The meeting with Mitterrand, a Socialist, "was an occasion to speak of European events," Papandreu said. "I think the impact for Pasok is positive, but that was not my objective."

Papandreu said Pasok "wants to take action at a European level." (AP)

Meese associate sentenced: E. Robert Wallach, a close associate of former Attorney General Edwin Meese III, was sentenced yesterday to six years in prison for his racketeering conviction in the Westech Corp. scandal.

US District Judge Richard Owen said Wallach used his influence to gain access "to the back steps of the White House" and made almost a half-million dollars as a result.

Criticism delays Namibian talks

UN move to censure SA

JOHANNESBURG, Oct 17. (Reuters) Talks to smooth Namibia's troubled path to independence were delayed today amid reports of a UN move to censure South Africa's role in the territory.

Delegations from South Africa, Cuba and Angola held separate discussions before starting the second of two days of talks on problems besetting a peace accord for Namibia signed by the three countries last December.

Diplomats said the 90-minute delay was due to South African objections to a request by African nations at the United Nations for a Security Council meeting to censure Pretoria for alleged continued operation of its disbanded counter-insurgency unit.

Diplomats said the African censure move was made yesterday. UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said last

week the demobilisation of the South African-backed Koevoet (crowbar) paramilitary force was overdue.

He also said a lack of co-operation from the South West Africa Police (Swapol) was hindering UN investigations into human rights abuses.

UN-sponsored elections paving the way for Namibian independence are just three weeks away and delegates are under pressure to solve remaining difficulties.

Under the UN accord, South Africa promised to grant independence to Namibia in 1990 in return for the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola.

But the process has been upset by allegations that former members of the much-feared Koevoet have carried out acts of intimidation against voters on behalf of political parties.

Never before in the Commonwealth's history has there been a battle for the post held for the past 14 years by Guyana's former Foreign and Justice Minister, Sir Shridath Ramphal. While the organisation of former colonies usually makes decisions by consensus, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mahathir said that might not be possible in such a heated contest.

"If there is no consensus, then we might have to hold a ballot," said Mahathir, chairman of the meeting marking the 40th anniversary of the Commonwealth.

Mahathir stressed that apartheid overshadows all other issues confronting the delegates.

"We see at the moment some changes taking place in South Africa," Mahathir said. "There seems to be a little bit more accommodation on the part of the government towards the aspirations of the blacks."

"We feel this is a direct result of the sanctions that have been applied, and we feel that sanctions must continue if we are going to see any results," he said.

World issues ranging from reform in South Africa to changes in the climate will be on the agenda for Commonwealth leaders over the next week.

As monarch's sultans, presidents and prime ministers began gathering today, Ramphal said a summit meeting in the Malaysian capital would focus on critical threats to the environment.

The biennial meeting of the disparate group will formally welcome back Pakistan as its 49th member.

Ramphal said: "The environment is at a critical stage on the international agenda, it will be very much on stage here."

For the first time in the relatively new debate on the environment, the leaders of developing and developed countries will be talking to each other about how to tackle this matter."

Ramphal said he did not expect the summit, to be attended by 34 national leaders, to be dominated by the issue of Sanctions against South Africa, as the last two meetings had been.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto will bring Pakistan back into the Commonwealth 17 years later after her father broke away from the recognition of Bangladesh, formerly East Pakistan. After Queen Elizabeth, who is head of the Commonwealth, opens the meeting, Thatcher will start the first closed discussion with a review of "global trends and prospects."

Unesco confers

PARIS, Oct 17. (AP) Unesco begins a monthlong meeting today hoping to adopt a programme for the early 1990s that is reform-oriented enough to induce the United States and Britain to return to the organisation.

Both countries, which pulled out in the middle of the 1980s, have said director general Federico Mayor has not made enough changes to justify a return. But both will reconsider their positions after the conference is over.

A Spanish biochemist, Mayor took over the reins of the 159-nation UN Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation two years ago, succeeding Amadou Mahtar M'Bow of Senegal, whose ideological views were considered anti-Western and whose management style was found wasteful by Britain and the United States.



The Dalai Lama being welcomed by a young monk. (Reuters wirephoto)

Roh, Bush to discuss troops South Korean student bludgeoned to death

WASHINGTON, Oct 17. (AP) President George Bush and South Korean President Roh Tae Woo meet today with both determined to resist pressure for significant cutbacks in the US military presence in South Korea.

Roh said before leaving South Korea that he saw little possibility of any significant change in the "general level" of US forces in South Korea, which have numbered about 40,000 for many years.

But he said South Korea will increase its share of the cost of stationing US forces in its country.

Meanwhile, a senior US official, briefing reporters yesterday, said maintenance of the US deterrent in South Korea is a high priority for both countries.

Still, the official, asking not to be identified, said "minor reductions" are possible in the future as South Korea assumes a larger role in

its own defence.

After late morning talks in the White House Oval Office, Bush planned a working luncheon with his guest. Roh also expects to address a joint meeting of Congress during his stay.

The US Ambassador to Japan, Michael Armistead, appeared to be laying the groundwork for an eventual US troop reduction when he said last week there will come a time "when it is appropriate to adjust the size" of US forces in South Korea.

The administration has begun a review of the US military commitment to South Korea and some in Congress believe reductions should come sooner rather than later.

But the administration believes that with North Korea continuing to modernize its military forces, the United States should be in no hurry to institute cutbacks.

Administration officials say they are pleased with democratic progress South Korea has made over the past two years.

But human rights groups claim there has been an increase in repression lately. And the senior US official said yesterday that although the overall picture is positive, "the impression should not be one of complacency" in Washington.

In Seoul, a 20-year-old student suspected of being a police spy was tortured and bludgeoned to death and six militant students were being held in connection with his murder, police said today.

The body of Sol In-Jong was found on Sunday in the student council office at Seoul's Yonsei University, laid on a folding bed and wrapped in a brown blanket, police said.

They said he had been tied to a chair, tortured and beaten to death.

Bush hinders chems accord

WASHINGTON, Oct 17. (Agencies) President George Bush's approach to curbing chemical weapons may anger other nations because it would change a multilateral pact already partially negotiated, officials said yesterday.

Bush has signed a classified order allowing the Defence Department to continue producing a new generation of chemical weapons for an unspecified period of time, according to administration officials who spoke on condition of anonymity.

That unannounced and unexplained shift from previous policy will stimulate rather than curb chemical weapons proliferation, critics say.

Bush, as vice-president in 1984, carried a draft text to the Geneva negotiations proposing that nations signing a chemical weapons ban cease producing such arms right away and destroy their stockpiles over a 10-year period. About 40 nations are taking part in those talks, scheduled to resume in November.

On Sept 25, Bush proposed in a speech at the United Nations that the United States and the Soviet Union cut their existing chemical stockpiles by 80 per cent as an impetus to the Geneva negotiations.

"If true, these reports are deeply disturbing and represent a step backward in the effort to control the international proliferation of chemical weapons," said George Mitchell, leader of the majority opposition Democrats in Senate, on Monday.

The shift "is going to cause a little commotion in the negotiations," said an administration arms control expert who spoke on condition of anonymity. "It will cause us difficulties in Geneva," where the multilateral negotiations are underway.

Although Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze immediately applauded Bush's UN speech, the Kremlin is concerned over the classified order to continue production of chemical weapons, a Soviet diplomat said.

"There is some controversy over this," the diplomat said on condition he not be further identified.

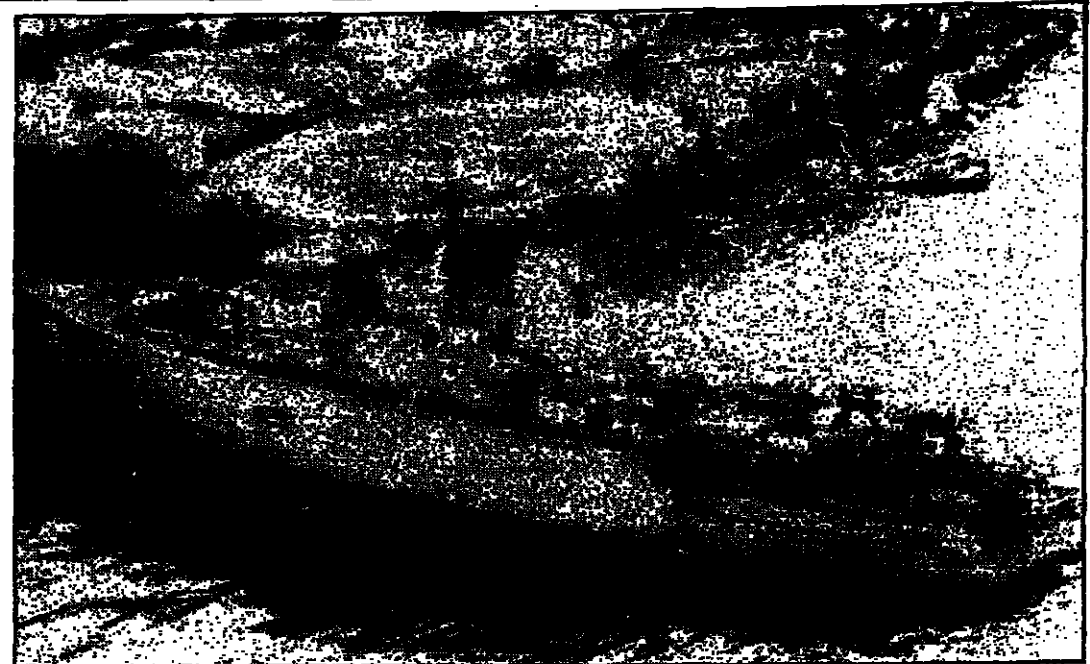
Members of Congress are urging the President to reconsider his shift.

Mitchell also said Bush's plan to continue production of chemical weapons after signing a treaty to eventually ban them jeopardises the accord.

"The President, ironically, has stated (the party) is one of his highest arms control priorities," Mitchell said.

US officials have said Bush has decided to continue replacing ageing US chemical weapons with new binary ones even after signing the treaty in case its call for an international ban on production of chemical weapons cannot be achieved.

The new binary weapons keep relatively harmless chemicals in separate containers but mix them together in use to produce nerve gas.



Runs aground

The Royal Navy minesweeper Brecon ran aground Oct 16 in Brodick Bay on the island of Arran in Scotland. The ship is thought to have had mechanical failure while on exercise in the Firth of Clyde. (Reuters wirephoto)

Guildford four found innocent

Way clear for release

LONDON, Oct 17. (Reuters) Britain's director of public prosecutions (DPP) said today that four alleged Irish Republican Army guerrillas jailed since 1974 for English pub bombings that killed seven people were wrongly convicted.

The surprise decision opened the way for a swift release of the group, known as the "Guildford four," whose detention has severely strained Anglo-Irish relations and drawn condemnation from top British lawyers, politicians and churchmen.

"The DPP has come to the conclusion that the convictions should not be sustained... that they should not have been convicted," a DPP spokeswoman said in a statement likely to raise questions about other IRA suspects held in England.

The reason for the DPP's decision will not be disclosed until the four appear at the Old Bailey court in London on Thursday when they are expected to be freed.

The spokeswoman said it was based on "circumstances which have recently come to the notice of the DPP."

The Irish government welcomed the move which was expected to ease strains between British and Irish ministers meet for talks in Belfast tomorrow.

Such meetings have been over-

shadowed recently by evidence that security forces in Northern Ireland, where the IRA is fighting British rule, have leaked secret information about IRA suspects to Protestant killers.

The Guildford four — Irishmen Paul Hill, Gerard Conlan and Patrick Armstrong and Englishwoman Carole Richardson — were convicted of bombing two pubs in the southeastern town of Guildford used by soldiers from a nearby barracks.

Five were killed in the attack, at the height of an IRA campaign aimed at driving Britain from Northern Ireland. Two of the four were also convicted of bombing a pub in London's Woolwich district a few weeks later.

The four were convicted — during an upsurge of anti-IRA feeling in England — solely on the strength of confessions they made soon after their arrest.

The Home Office, under pressure from a growing public campaign, agreed nine months ago to review the case. New evidence included a doctor's statement that Richardson had been given drugs that could have influenced her police statement.

Michael Fisher, lawyer for Paul Hill, said in a television interview he was confident the four would be freed on Thursday.

Assault with fruits

Tossed turnip kills

LONDON, Oct 17. (AP) Police say a 56-year-old man was fatally injured by a turnip hurled from a passing car and that there have been nearly two dozen other recent instances of assault with fruits and vegetables.

At an inquest yesterday detective superintendent Graham Howard said the death of Leslie Merry was being investigated as a murder. Merry was hit by a turnip while he was shopping in East London on July 14. He suffered a punctured lung and a rib was broken in three places. His condition worsened after he was released from the hospital two days later. He was readmitted the next day and died on July 23.

Dr David Rouse, a pathologist, testified that Merry died of ruptured spleen, caused by the impact of the turnip, and of acute respiratory failure and chronic pulmonary disease.

China orders party purge

BEIJING, Oct 17. (AP) Communist Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin has ordered a purge of "opportunists" in leading party positions, an official report said yesterday without identifying their targets.

Jiang's speech was published one day after the Beijing city party committee voted to purge its own ranks by requiring all members to re-register for examination of their qualifications.

The disclosure of Jiang's speech shows that the Beijing committee's actions are not those of a radical fringe, but represent decisions of the party centre.

The official Xinhua news agency said Jiang delivered his speech in August at a meeting of party organisation departments from around the country. The speech will appear in this week's issue of "Seek Truth," the party magazine.

Xinhua did not explain the delay in releasing the speech, which may have been due to disagreement within top party ranks over how far to go in carrying out the current crackdown on dissent.

The crackdown is part of a hard-line backlash to the spring pro-democracy protests that were crushed by an army attack in June.

Many urban rank-and-file party members expressed sympathy with the protests, and some took part. Former party chief Zhao Ziyang was accused of supporting the protests and ousted from office along with several top allies, but the party has yet to deal with many Zhao supporters who remain in place.

Xinhua quoted Jiang as saying in his speech that "to ensure the purity of the party, it is necessary to uncover the opportunists, especially those in leading positions within the party."

But he did not identify them, and Xinhua gave no further information.

Jiang also said the role of party cells should be strengthened and that exploiters — a word the party uses for wealthy private businessmen — should be barred from the party because it is the "vanguard of the working class."

The party has stepped up its emphasis on class identification and class struggle since June.

Private businesses were allowed to make a comeback in the past decade under senior leader Deng Xiaoping's policy of reforming the centralised economy, and the party had preached that it was acceptable for some people to get rich. At least one millionaire was admitted to the party.

■ Zhao Ziyang, once heir apparent to senior leader Deng Xiaoping but ousted in a bitter power struggle in June, marked his 70th birthday in obscurity today with much of his reform programme under attack.

Vietnam soldiers captured

BANGKOK, Oct 17. (AP) Cambodia's Khmer Rouge guerrillas claimed they captured 10 more Vietnamese soldiers, two weeks after Vietnam staged what it called the withdrawal of its last troops from the country. The Vietnamese were captured Oct 10 in a guerrilla attack on three positions west of the district office at Samlot, in western Cambodia near the Thai border. The Khmer Rouge army radio said yesterday. A text of the broadcast was released in Bangkok today.

The radio said the soldiers were from the 3rd Regiment of Vietnamese Division 330. It said the soldiers confessed that parts of the division were posted at Samlot and at Pailin, which has been besieged by the Khmer Rouge in recent months.

Vietnam on Sept 26 completed what it called a six-day pullout of its last 26,000 troops. But the Khmer Rouge and its two allies in a guerrilla coalition say thousands of Vietnamese soldiers remain, some disguised as soldiers of the Vietnamese-installed government in Phnom Penh.

The Khmer Rouge previously claimed it captured five Vietnamese soldiers at Pailin Sept 30. The guerrillas showed five supposed Vietnamese captives to reporters on Oct 5. It was not possible to confirm who they were or when they were captured.

MIDEAST

Saudi Arabia condemns attack on diplomat

NICOSIA, Oct. 17, (Agencies): Saudi Arabia condemned a car bomb attack on one of its diplomats in Turkey and called for the swift arrest and punishment of whoever was responsible.

"While strongly condemning this criminal and cowardly act...we are sure Turkey will spare no effort to arrest the criminals and inflict strict punishment on them," the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) quoted a Foreign Ministry official as saying.

SPA said 28-year-old Abdurrahman Shrewi, whose legs were shattered yesterday when a bomb went off in his car in Ankara, had been flown to Saudi Arabia for medical treatment.

Surgeons have amputated both limbs at the knees. The legs were shattered by the powerful bomb that blew Shrewi out of the car as he drove to work.

Shrewi was an accountant in the office of the embassy's military attache.

Police investigators in Ankara said the explosion was most likely caused by a time bomb and the Turkish Foreign Ministry expressed regret over the "international terrorist act."

The blast was the second attack on a Saudi diplomat in Turkey in a year. An embassy employee was shot and killed in front of his home in October.

In October last year another diplomat at the Saudi embassy in Ankara was killed at his home by an

unidentified gunman.

Two Swiss Red Cross workers are missing, believed kidnapped in Lebanon.

Jordanian Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Bin Shaker today condemned the authors of a bomb blast.

He said in a telegram of sympathy to Saudi Defence Minister Prince Sultan Ibn Abdulaziz that Monday's attack showed the "baseness and cowardice" of its perpetrators.



Weizsaecker in Rabat

West German President Richard von Weizsaecker (left) inspected the royal guard at Rabat airport, accompanied by King Hassan of Morocco (right).

Brightly-dressed barber tribeswomen danced, threw flowers and sang songs of welcome on Monday to greet Weizsaecker at the start of a state visit to Morocco.

Weizsaecker, the first West German head of state to visit Morocco, was met at Rabat international airport by King Hassan.

After reviewing a guard of honour, the two men were driven to the King's palace along roads flanked by cheering children waving the flags of both countries. (Reuters wirephoto)

Opposition declares boycott

Ozal bids for president

ANKARA, Oct. 17, (Reuters): Prime Minister Turgut Ozal announced today he will seek Turkey's presidency, triggering an opposition boycott of the election which starts in Parliament on Friday.

Ozal, the dominant figure of the decade in Turkish politics, has lost much of his popular support in recent inflation-wracked years but appears near certain of election because of his conservative Motherland Party's majority in the House.

"I have finally decided to be a candidate for president," he told applauding Motherland deputies, ending months of speculation.

His decision had been widely predicted and denounced in advance by the opposition as a cynical defiance of public opinion.

The head of state is largely a ceremonial post but presidents frequently intervene to resolve the country's recurring political crises.

Turkey's presidents have usually been non-partisan figures from the senior ranks of the armed forces.

If elected Ozal, 62, would be the first head of state for 30 years with a civilian background and only the second since the modern republic was founded in the post-World War One ashes of the Ottoman Empire.

President Kenan Evren, a former general who led

a coup in 1980 and returned the country to civilian rule in 1983, is obliged to retire after a single seven-year term.

After Ozal's announcement opposition parties said they would boycott the voting in Parliament.

They have repeatedly warned in recent months that it would go against the spirit of the constitution to foist an unpopular political president on the country.

"Ozal is risking everything for his personal interests," said Erdal Inonu, head of the Social Democratic Populist Party, the main opposition.

"We will not take part in the voting."

Rightwing deputy Omer Barutcu said the True Path Party "will not recognise this man and will protest the election."

The Motherland Party suffered a severe defeat in nationwide local elections last March, polling only 22 per cent of the vote. Recent opinion surveys put the party's support as low as 15 per cent.

In Parliament, elected in November 1987, the party holds 289 of the 450 seats.

The election can take up to four rounds of voting. If no candidate gets a two-thirds majority in the first two ballots, a simple majority can elect the president in the third of fourth.

Iraq denies access to 'spy' suspects

IPI cables Saddam

MANAMA, Oct. 17, (UPI): Iraq will not grant the British embassy consular access to a journalist and nurse jailed in Baghdad until suspicions of alleged espionage against the two Britons have been fully investigated, a British diplomat said today.

"The British embassy has not been granted consular access, but Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz said Iraq will fully respect its obligations under international conventions when the current investigation was completed," a Gulf-based British diplomat told United Press International in a telephone interview.

Aziz earlier this week informed visiting British Energy Minister John Wakeham that Iranian-born British journalist working for the London weekly Observer, and a British nurse also working in a private hospital in the Iraqi capital, were being interrogated on espionage charges and could face trial as spies, the diplomat confirmed.

Aziz made it clear the arrests were linked. If found guilty, the two Britons could face execution under Iraq's penal code.

The London-based International Press Institute said Farzad Bazoft, 31, a journalist with the prestigious Sunday newspaper the Observer, was arrested in Baghdad on Sept 15 and held incommunicado without charge or trial.

The IPI said it sent a cable to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein earlier this month, describing Bazoft's detention, "a flagrant violation of the principles guaranteed in international agreements, including article 19 of the universal declaration of human rights."

Bazoft was arrested while checking reports, denied by the Iraqi government, that hundreds of Iraqis had been killed in an explosion at a military complex near Baghdad.

The nurse, who the diplomat named as 44-year-old Daphne Parish, was detained several days later in connection with the leaking of the explosion reports.

The diplomat said Aziz made it clear during his meeting with Wakeham that Parish was being regarded as an accomplice of Bazoft.

The Observer said Bazoft had been invited to Iraq last month with a group of foreign correspondents and arrested as they prepared to leave Baghdad.

The Observer's editor, Donald Treford, said earlier this month that Bazoft's offence, "was to have stayed off the prescribed route laid down for the journalists in an attempt to find out the cause and extent of a huge explosion south of Baghdad."

Jordan to allow party members in polls

AMMAN, Oct. 17, (AP): Interior Minister Salem Masadeh said today the government will not enforce a ban on members of political parties in upcoming general elections, the first in more than 25 years.

Masadeh told a news conference the decision followed King Hussein's "orders, wishes and desire" not to implement the law which forbids members of political parties to run for elections.

The action indicates that the Nov 8 voting may be Jordan's most open election since 1956. Political parties were banned following a leftist coup attempt in 1957.

"We are really interested in equal opportunity for all those who wish to run for elections provided that they are qualified for candidatures," Masadeh said.

"I believe if we used it (the ban on parties), everybody will argue that it should not have been used... and I am amazed to hear you asking why the government has decided not to apply that article," Masadeh said in response to a question.

Members of the Communist Party and several leftist groups are seeking election, as are members of the Muslim Brotherhood, which Jordan has generally tolerated as a social rather than political organisation.

Masadeh said the candidates' application form asked if they were members of illegal political organisations and all candidates "marked it 'no'."

Many party members argue that the law banning parties is unconstitutional and that their organisations are therefore legal.

The minister said 662 candidates signed up for the campaign during the three-day registration period that ended yesterday.

He said eight women are seeking election to the 80-seat chamber. Women gained the right to vote and stand for election in 1974, but no general elections have been held since 1967.

Israel's capture of the West Bank in that year made nationwide elections impossible because the territory held half of the 60 seats in the old parliament.

Hussein last year renounced claims to the West Bank and the government drew up plans for the new legislature, which omits representation of the occupied territory.

MIDEAST BRIEFS

Faulty judgement

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Oct. 17, (Reuters): Faulty judgement by an Israeli Air Force colonel enabled a Syrian defector to fly his MiG-23 fighter into northern Israel last week, Army Chief of Staff Dan Shomron said yesterday.

Shomron assured Israelis, shocked by the Air Force's failure to intercept the Syrian fighter, that they were not in danger.

Explaining the findings of an army probe, Shomron said the colonel, who failed to scramble Israeli aircraft to intercept the MiG-23, would be reprimanded and an Air Force controller who gave an inaccurate report would also be held to account.

Shomron told Israel television: "The Syrian plane, at the moment it penetrated Israeli territory, was spotted by our air defence system. All the actions required by the infiltration of a foreign plane were carried out according to orders."

"(But) as a result of miscalculation and an incorrect report that reached the decision-maker, these operations were stopped."

The Army inquiry also reported some technical flaws that Shomron said would be corrected by the Air Force.

Explosion kills 6

ANKARA, Oct. 17, (Reuters): Six people were killed and 11 were injured in an explosion and fire at a night club in central Ankara today, the semi-official Anatolian news agency said.

All the victims were believed to be employees sleeping in the club in the early hours of the morning after customers had left.

Somalia admits

MOGADISHU, Oct. 17, (Reuters): President Mohamed Siad Barre admitted for the first time some army troops had murdered, and rebels accused Libya of sending troops and heavy weapons to back Somalia against them.

Siad Barre told farmers meeting in the capital Mogadishu last night that some government troops had "burned the barrel of the gun against those who trained and equipped them."

Armenian genocide

WASHINGTON, Oct. 17, (AP): Officials facing a diplomatic rift with Turkey summoned Sen. Bob Dole to the White House yesterday to discuss his proposed resolution memorialising the "Armenian genocide" 75 years ago, a Dole aide said.

"It is the most offensive thing that Congress can do to US-Turkish relations," said Daryl Batibay, the deputy chief of the Turkish embassy. Turkey is a close NATO ally that plays host to American military bases.

Zionists criticise

NEW YORK, Oct. 17, (Reuters): The Zionist Organisation of America, opposing the American Jewish Congress, yesterday criticised a statement on the Middle East prepared by Roman Catholic bishops and blamed it for its shortcomings on a failure to consult Zionists.

"The position paper is contradictory when it calls for Israel to have secure boundaries and yet it urges the establishment of an independent Palestinian state," the organization said in a statement.

ICRC claims

KHARTOUM, Oct. 17, (Reuters): The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) says it has visited 105 prisoners of war held by Sudanese rebels and eight held by the government.

The rebel Sudan Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA) has said that the government always killed rebels it captured and warned that it would do the same with its government prisoners.

Qatar, Poland ties

KUWAIT, Oct. 17, (UPI): Qatar and Poland decided yesterday to establish diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level, state-run Qatar Radio reported, paving the way for Warsaw to establish ties with other wealthy Gulf states.

The radio, monitored in Kuwait, said both countries issued a statement in which they expressed their readiness to "build up their bilateral relations according to the UN charter and the principles of co-existence."

Danielle invited

PARIS, Oct. 17, (Kuna): Iraqi Ambassador Dr Abdul Razzaq Al Hashemi said here yesterday that his country's relations with France will be affected by the "international conference on the Kurdish identity" which was held here last weekend under the patronage of French first lady, Danielle Mitterrand.

Speaking to a press conference, Dr Al Hashemi said that Mrs Mitterrand had received an invitation to visit Iraq to see for herself the life-style of Iraqi Kurdistan.

Prisoners suffocate

MOGADISHU, Oct. 17, (Reuters): Eleven people died of suffocation in a sweltering prison cell, the official Somali news agency reported.

It said 11 of 26 prisoners crammed in a cell in the capital Mogadishu were found dead from excessive heat and lack of oxygen yesterday.

Kabul parachutes supplies into Khost

Rebels nearing airport

ISLAMABAD, Oct. 17, (Agencies): Muslim rebels have advanced on the eastern town of Khost and the government reportedly is trying to resupply its troops there by land and air, Western diplomats said today.

US-supported anti-communist rebels launched a major offensive against the heavily-fortified garrison town several weeks ago, and the sources said fighters have moved within three miles (five kilometres) of the Khost airport.

One source, presumably with access to satellite pictures, also said "photographs show parachutes inside the Khost perimeter... there is clear visible evidence of air droppings."

Rebel sources said government planes two weeks ago had parachuted 44 barrels of fuel to the area for its forces, but only about eight reached its target and the remainder landed in guerrilla-controlled areas.

None of the reports could be independently verified.

Rebel control of Khost, about 10 miles (16 kilometres) from the Pakistan border, would open direct supply lines to rebel bases in central and northern Afghanistan.

The United States and Pakistan are the major backers of the rebels, who have been fighting for more than a decade to oust successive communist governments. Last February, Moscow ended its decade-long military intervention under a UN-brokered accord but continues to back the Kabul government.

The Western diplomats said today a 200-vehicle convoy left Kabul late last week with supplies bound for Khost. They said it was moving slowly toward Gardez, about 45 miles (75 kilometres) northwest of Khost, according to diplomats.

The same sources said Soviet-made Antonov cargo planes have been landing at Khost during the night, but "they only stay on the ground 10 minutes."

Diplomats also said rebels have blockaded the 75-mile (125-kilometre) highway linking Afghanistan's capital of Kabul to the eastern city of Jalalabad.

Government troops have launched heavy air attacks and armoured assaults against rebels in an effort to open the road.

Afghan authorities have sentenced a Spanish writer to five years' jail for entering the country illegally and "collecting anti-government propaganda," a government spokesman said today.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman in the government told journalists that Jorge Juan Garcia had been sentenced on Sunday.

Garcia, 35, who was arrested in August, pleaded his innocence at a government-organised news conference in Kabul last month, where he appeared alongside two alleged Pakistani spies and alleged mercenaries from Egypt, Jordan, Iraq and Saudi Arabia who had also been captured.

"I have never collaborated, never had a gun. I am just taking notes for my book," Garcia said at the news conference.

Garcia is the latest of 41 foreign nationals Kabul says it has arrested in the country since the Geneva accords on Afghanistan were signed in May, 1988.

Among those arrested are Pakistanis and others accused of fighting with the mujahedeen anti-government rebels, but also aid workers and journalists who entered Afghanistan with the mujahedeen from Pakistan.

Soviet defector seeks asylum

CAIRO, Oct. 17, (AP): A Soviet national from Azerbaijan who dropped out of a tour group, went to the US embassy and sought to defect said yesterday he "would rather die here" than return.

The man earlier had sought asylum from the Turkish embassy but was turned down on ground he did not qualify as a legitimate refugee.

Daoud Aiyev, 45, an artist and a member of Azerbaijan's Muslim Shiite majority, said he left the tour group last week when it arrived in Cairo from southern Egypt.

Leaving the group of 30 tourists from Baku, Azerbaijan, "was very difficult," Aiyev said. "All eyes were on everyone. If I was caught, I would have been sent back and killed."

The Soviet embassy was closed for the day and its officials unavailable for comment.

A thin man with a crop of white hair, Aiyev looked worn and dishevelled in an interview as he spoke in Azerbaijani, a language close to Turkish.

He said a Turkish national he sought help from in Cairo wrote a note for him in English to carry to the Americans.

"I am a Soviet citizen," the note said. "I want to defect to the United States. I speak only Russian."

Aiyev said he met with an officer he could not identify during a stay of about four hours at the US embassy. He was handed a form, written in Russian, that asked his reason for wanting to defect and what he planned to do in the United States.

On completing the form, he was asked to return today for a reply as to whether his request would be granted, he said.

A spokeswoman at the US embassy said she had not heard of the case but that she would check.

"I am a painter, and the conflict in Azerbaijan, plus the oppressive atmosphere, prevents any artistic inspiration," Aiyev said. For the last 19 months, his home republic has been in bloody conflict with the nearby Armenian republic.

An enclave inside Azerbaijan, the only Soviet republic with a predominantly Shiite population, the district's people are mainly ethnic Armenian Christians.

Gunmen kill PLO official in Sidon

SIDON, Oct. 17, (Reuters): Gunmen opened fire on two members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in this southern port city, killing one and wounding the other, security sources said today.

The shooting took place overnight in the Palestinian refugee camp of Ain Al Hilweh, a major bastion for several Palestinian factions, the sources said.

The PLO led by Chairman Yasser Arafat warned on Sunday against Palestinian infighting and accused a radical Palestinian group of killing one of its officials, Ali Hashem in Ain Al Hilweh last week.

Security sources said Abu Nidal's Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC) was responsible for Hashem's killing. A few days before an FRC official, Dr Mousa Atyeh Alwan, was shot dead at the camp.

A pro-Islamic Muslim cleric said today that Lebanon's shadowy Islamic Jihad group was not linked to a death threat against two Swiss Red Cross workers kidnapped in South Lebanon 12 days ago.

"A certain group took advantage of this kidnapping and made this allegation. This organisation is unknown and different from the Islamic Jihad Movement," said Sheikh Maher Hammoud.

An anonymous telephone caller claiming to speak for Islamic Jihad told a news agency in Cyprus yesterday that the two Swiss would be killed unless Switzerland freed Mohammed Hussein Hariri within three days.

Syria's Defence Minister accused Lebanese Christian Army Commander Michel Aoun yesterday of blocking a solution to the crisis in Lebanon and of seeking to resume fighting.

The irresponsible statements and random firing by Aoun at this stage are aimed at justifying the continuation of his destructive war against the Lebanese people," said major general Mustafa Tlas.

Tlas, quoted by the official Syrian news agency Sana, said General Aoun wanted to prevent members of Lebanon's Parliament, now meeting in the Saudi resort of Taif, agreeing on a political settlement.

In a reference to Aoun, Tlas said: "The main obstacle blocking a solution lies in those controlling (Christian) East Beirut and those who are supporting them in Israel and Baghdad."

"They are insisting on impossible conditions to evade the responsibility of accepting reconciliation."

Britons leaving Oman

MUSCAT, Oct. 17, (AP): The British embassy in Oman, watching the dwindling of a British community in a traditionally favoured Gulf destination, yesterday began surveying the remaining nationals for an exact picture.

The British, who form the largest Western workforce in the expatriate community of the sultanate, currently stand at around 4,500, the lowest this decade, said Western diplomatic sources.

This compares to a high of around 11,500 in 1985 prior to the devaluation of the Omani rial, which was coupled with cutbacks in public sector spending due to weakened oil prices.

The American population in Oman, the second largest expatriate community, has dropped about 15 per cent from 1,200 to 1,000 since 1985, US consular sources said.

Expatriate professionals who went to work in the oil-rich Gulf are pulling out as economic pressures harden, said the diplomatic sources.

Soviets first time refuse to support

Arabs demand ouster of Israel

UNITED NATIONS, Oct. 17, (UPI): The Soviet Union refused for the first time today to support an Arab-led demand that Israel be ousted from the UN General Assembly in a move interpreted by diplomats as growing evidence of the Soviet role in the Middle East peace process.

The Soviet Union abstained with 14 other countries when the General Assembly voted 95 against 37 to reject the Arab demand to unseat the Israel delegation. There are 159 UN member states. Twelve did not take part in the vote.

Among the abstaining members were China, Poland, East Germany and Czechoslovakia.

Last year, the assembly voted 95 against 41 to reject the same Arab demand.

The demand by 32 Arab and Muslim nations, excluding Egypt, and the Palestine Liberation Organisation to unseat Israel was introduced by Libya, which accused Israel of "continued defiance, flagrant and persistent violation of the UN charter."

Arab states have been challenging unsuccessfully the Israeli credentials since 1982 with the Soviet support. Every year, as soon as the Arabs made the move, the Nordic states countered with a motion

demanding the assembly to reject it.

UN diplomats said the Soviet Union's new position reflected its growing role in the Middle East conflict. Moscow has widened its contacts with Israel lately when it invited Israeli Finance Minister Shimon Perez to visit the Soviet Union.

Moscow broke its diplomatic relations with the Jewish state after Israel's six day war in 1967. The two sides have been trying recently to restore the ties.

In other decisions by the General Assembly on delegations' credentials, the assembly also rejected a Soviet demand to vacate the seat now occupied by the Cambodian resistance headed by ousted Prince Norodom Sihanouk, whose three armed factions have been fighting Vietnam and the pro-Hanoi government in Phnom Penh.

The Soviet Union wanted the Sihanouk seat to be an "empty seat" while waiting for negotiations to settle the Cambodian conflict.

The assembly also rejected China's proposal to oust the Afghan UN delegation because no final settlement has been reached in the war between the Soviet-backed regime of Afghan President Najibullah and US-armed Muslim rebels.

13 killed in clash

Kurds battle with troops

ANKARA, Oct. 17, (UPI): Thirteen people, including five soldiers, were killed when Kurdish separatist guerrillas clashed with security forces in southeastern Turkey over the past three days, officials said today.

The latest clash broke out yesterday in the Bahcesaray district of Van, some 590 miles (940 km) southeast of Ankara, when security forces were carrying out a search for guerrillas in the area.

Kurdish separatists opened fire on a military patrol, killing a non-commissioned officer, a spokesman at the provincial governor's office said. One guerrilla was shot dead and the rest escaped under cover of darkness, he said.

Two soldiers were shot dead late Sunday in another clash near

Eruh, some 550 miles (880 km) southeast of Ankara. In the ensuing clash, seven guerrillas were killed and one captured. The guerrillas used automatic weapons and grenades in the fighting.

Police said one of the rebel killed in the Eruh clash was a woman guerrilla believed responsible for the murder of 30 people this year. Two other guerrillas in the group were foreign nationals, but the authorities declined to disclose their nationality.

In a clash near the village of Taslik, on the Iraqi border, a junior officer and a private soldier were killed in another clash on Saturday, the spokesman at the provincial governor's office said.

KUWAIT ... GULF

API to hold planning workshop Oct 21-25

Focus on environmental considerations

DR. Abdul Rahman Al Awadi, Minister of Planning and Chairman of the Board of Trustees at the Arab Planning Institute — Kuwait, will inaugurate on Saturday, October 21, a "Workshop on Designing a Regional Training Programme for Integration of Environmental Considerations in Development Planning," to be held at the API premises in Kuwait, during the period October 21-25. The workshop is jointly organised by the Arab Planning Institute — Kuwait, in co-operation with the United Nations Environment

Programme, Nairobi, and Arabian Gulf University, Bahrain.

Seven papers presented by various organisations and institutes will be discussed. The first four papers will focus on the construction and methodological and analytical framework, to be followed up in handling environmental considerations in the process of economic planning, while the rest of the papers will deal in regional case studies representing Kuwait, the Sudan and Bahrain.

The participants of this workshop will

include members from the organising institutions, as well as from related agencies/organisations, such as Environment Economic Centre, London, Stockholm School of Economics, Sweden, Massey University, New Zealand, National Planning Institutes, Iraq and Cairo, Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Economic Development, Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), Arab Towns Organisation, the Inter-Arab Investment Guarantee Cor-

poration and United Nations Development Programme.

It is worthwhile mentioning that the main goal of this workshop, as the title suggests, is to prepare well founded training programmes for environment planners in the Arab region, to be held at the API.

It is hoped by conducting such programmes, to enlighten concerned policy makers to rationalise the use of limited natural resources in the region and to make it possible for new generations to share the benefits of such resources.

Kuwait Airport under study

Third review of masterplan

THE Higher Committee of the Masterplan and Grand Construction Projects has approved a proposal to study the structural plan of Kuwait International Airport, Bader Al Bahar assistant undersecretary of the Ministry of Planning for follow up and programmes affairs, said.

The committee is now selecting consultative offices for this project and has also agreed to study the third revision for developing the Master Plan of Kuwait. It is presently studying the financial and technical offers submitted by Kuwaiti engineering offices for this project.

Shifting his talk to the Subbiya City Project to be completed within the next ten years,

Bahar said that the committee has agreed that the project be accorded priority status.

The project includes the building of a causeway linking Kuwait City with Subbiya City, as also a tourist project, army camps, housing complexes for workers in the city, services and workshops area, including afforestation projects. A specialised committee has been empowered to follow up the implementation of these projects.

The Ministry of Public Works in conjunction with Kuwait Municipality are conducting studies on the causeway project as also other projects on the anvil, Bahar said.

International Food Day celebrated

INTERNATIONAL Food Day is celebrated world-wide and aims at achieving permanent food security and ending hunger and poverty that threatens millions of people in the Third World, according to a senior Kuwaiti official.

The Kuwait National Committee designated to co-ordinate the activities of the International Food Day celebrated the occasion Monday evening under the patronage of the Chairman and Director-General of the Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Resources Sheikh Ibrahim Dhuayl Al Sabah.

Ahmad Al Naqib, deputy director for technical affairs, who was deputised to speak on the occasion, said that achieving food for all is not a dream if the international community co-operates and countries seriously co-ordinate plans to face the dangers of hunger and malnutrition. Talking about the food situation in general, the official said that this day of celebration affords everyone the opportunity to become more aware of problems that face the world in this vital area. It further urges all people to remove obstacles that prevent development strategies for securing permanent food security.

Reflections

He added that food and agriculture issues occupy a significant position in plans related to social and economic development. The tragedy of the millions of those who are hungry in the world, reflects very poorly on the communities of the world and their claims to technological advancement.

The solution to averting this tragedy which is looming in the near future, is not addressed by granting donations in case of disasters or short term solutions. The solution should lie in the form of taking international and revolutionary decisions to bring about permanent food supplies to all those in need.

Naqib hailed the active role of Kuwait's wise policy to establish bases of peace and co-operation in the world. This role occurs in the field of economic development and donations given by Kuwait to the Third World, he said.

The chairman of the committee, Mohammed Al Fayez has said that celebration of the International Food Day was approved by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) as an annual celebration. The celebration aims at gathering efforts to offer more food to meet the increasing demand and to fight hunger and malnutrition. He added that this year's celebration is organised under the slogan of Food and Environment. He added that hunger is threatening many countries in the Third World specially the African countries due to drought. The danger of hunger still exists despite calls directed by different international organisations to eradicate hunger. The solution to the shortage of food and hunger requires development plans to activate and develop the agricultural sector to increase production and achieve food security.

No shortage of teachers

BASICALLY, the Capital Educational Area does not suffer from a shortage of teachers. But, transfers of teachers from one area to another coupled with female teachers going on maternity leave does cause disruption in the functioning of the teaching staff.

Lhaled Al Sulaihem, director of the Capital Educational Area pointed out that the ministry recently issued an order to annex schools of Sulaibikhat and Doha areas to the Capital Educational Area and this will go into effect from next December. He added that there are 4,700 teachers and 43,824 pupils in different schools of the area.

The ministry has no intention to permit educational areas to separately hold final exams of the Secondary School Certificate. The ministry has set clear guidelines to control promotions for the limited supervisory posts.



Smokers who want to quit the habit at the clinic.

Anti-smoking clinic opened

By Fawzi Al Tameemi

THE Kuwaiti Society for Combating Smoking and Cancer opened a clinic Monday, in Sharq. The opening ceremony was attended by the general secretary of the society Dr Husain Al Momen and a number of members.

The clinic will start receiving those desirous of quitting smoking each Monday from 4:00 pm until 8:00 pm.

Dr Momen stated that the Anti-smoking Clinic is considered one of the main programmes included in anti-smoking awareness campaigns. The clinic will provide patients medical, and psychological advice or specific assistance to persuade them to stop smoking. He added that the clinic aims at treating smokers so that they can quit smoking indicating that the clinic is considered the first of its kind in the Arab world in general and the Gulf in particular.

The anti smoking clinic has been operating for eight years and has been accorded good response for smokers during this period. He added that the society aims at generalising the idea of similar clinics among health centres attached to the Ministry of Public Health.

The highest success rate was achieved by those patients who visited the clinic on a regular basis, the official said. He pointed out that the clinic has registered an accomplished success rate in persuading smokers to quit the habit adding that during the first season 63 per cent of smokers were able to quit while 37 per cent succeeded in reducing their intake of nicotine.

Four specialists are working at the clinic, the Ministry of Public Health has extended every co-operation to provide the clinic with the necessary medicines required by patients, Momen said.

Towards self-sufficiency

Kuwait produces 50pc of its eggs and poultry

THE chairman of the board and director-general of the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources Sheikh Ibrahim Al Duaij Al Sabah has said that Kuwait has so far been successful in producing poultry and eggs to cover 50 per cent of the domestic demand.

He told a local daily reporter that the abundance of cucumber this season is the result of using new fertilisers and this production surplus brought down prices to below normal rates. The new chemical fertilisers has not been found responsible for the development of leukaemia, the official commented.

He pointed out that feeding synthetic hormones to chickens for the purpose of increasing egg production was done under specialist control of qualified vets.

The fodder lab at the Animal Resources Department carried out tests on imported fodder before gaining access into the country to ensure that they are free and safe from any potentially hazardous hormone compounds.

He said that diseases among animals were of two types, one regular which included ordinary diarrhoea, indigestion, acidity,

etc., and infectious diseases such as ammonia, bovine plague, etc.

These diseases affect cows only and could not be passed to other animals. However, there are diseases that could affect both animal and man, such as consumption and brucellosis and others.

He pointed out that the perfect pasteurisation of milk would make all milky products safe for consumption and free from any disease-causing germs, which could be the source of cautionary steps by consumers.

The government has and still is combating diseases which could threaten national animal resources, and large amounts of money has been designated for the purpose of annihilating diseased cows.

Celebrations

He said the blue-tongue disease was a viral infection that could be passed from sheep to cows and vice versa, but could not affect human beings.

He added that even among animals, there had to be an intermediary means via which the disease-causing virus could pass from one infected animal to another through a certain type of insect that did not exist in Kuwait.

He said that quite a few specimens of Australian sheep had been subjected to lab investigations and the ensuing test results were negative for any diseases, including the blue-tongue disease, which endangers the health of both man and animal.

On the proposed celebrations of the national greening week, he said that the decision to hold these celebrations during October is the fact that it is the season for rainfall and farming.

The official commented that most leafy vegetables were successfully grown in Kuwait, and fruits such as figs, citrus, except quinces, were also successfully produced, but the main emphasis remains on palms, beet and lotus.

He emphasised the existing co-operation in the field of national greening among the various government agencies, and that representatives of the various government authorities were available on the Higher Greening Committee who held regular contacts with their counterparts in ministries, such as the Public Works, Electricity and Water, Information, Social Affairs and Labour, the Environmental Protection Council and the Ministries of Education, Interior and Defence.

Olive oil and health

Conference in Dubai

UNDER the auspices of the Minister of Health the Gulf's second Medical Conference on Olive Oil and Health will be held in the Dubai Intercontinental Hotel on October 30. The conference, which is organised by the International Olive Oil Council, will concentrate on the promotion of studies and research into the beneficial properties of the age-old product, olive oil.

His Excellency, the Minister of Health Mr Hamad Abdulrahman Al Madfa, will open the conference which is expected to attract up to 250 doctors and specialists from throughout the Gulf, including Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

The International Olive Oil Council, which celebrates its thirtieth anniversary this year, is an international organisation designed specifically to encourage world-wide use of olive oil, irrespective of brand. During the one-day conference, the council delegates will present the most up-to-date research on dietary and medical values of olive oil, including scientific evidence which proves its effectiveness in combating the growing dangers of heart disease.

Bush would be mad to follow Reagan: Ortega

Nicaraguan president in Bahrain

MANAMA, Oct 17, (Agencies): Nicaragua's President Daniel Ortega arrived in Bahrain today from Kuwait on the third leg of his Gulf tour.

The Nicaraguan leader, received a warm welcome at Bahrain's International Airport from the state's Amir, Sheikh Issa Bin Salman Al Khalifa.

Ortega, who is accompanied by his ministers of foreign affairs and planning, is scheduled to leave for home tomorrow after talks with Bahraini leaders on bilateral relations and regional issues. Bahrain and Nicaragua established diplomatic ties one month ago, and Nicaragua hopes to establish diplomatic ties with Kuwait by the end of the year, according to a Kuwaiti newspaper.

In remarks published today, Ortega said President Bush would be "mad" if he pursued the same policy of his predecessor Ronald Reagan toward Central America.

Ortega also said his country's war with the United States had shifted to the political front through presidential elections due to take place in Nicaragua next February.

"(President Bush) has witnessed all the experiences with Reagan, but he would be mad if he did what Reagan did," Ortega told another Kuwaiti daily.

"Bush is cleverer and deeper, but he is more dangerous because he has international and internal impetus like Reagan, who benefited from his experiences in the movies."

Ortega was reacting to a question on whether he expected any modification in the US policy toward his country during the Bush administration.

He accused the United States of attempting to weaken his leftist government in the forthcoming presidential elections.

"Our mission is confined to confronting this policy — practically we have changed our posi-

tion from a military battle into an electoral one," he said.

He added that the election in his country would be between "The United States and Nicaragua."

The Nicaraguan leader concluded a four-day official visit to Kuwait today and arrived in Manama, Bahrain for the third and final leg of his Gulf tour, which also took him to Doha, Qatar.

During his visit to Kuwait, Ortega held talks with senior Kuwaiti leaders, including Kuwaiti Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

Ortega said Central America was rejecting US policy in the region.

There is a kind of rejecting of US policy in Central America," he told the Kuwaiti daily. "This rejection has paved the way for the peace agreements of Aug 1987."

He was referring to the first meeting of leaders of the five

Central American states — Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica and Guatemala.

Ortega accused the United States of trying to obstruct the peace plan adopted by the five states in Central America.

"The United States had opposed the peace plan, but as the plan drew support from the international community and even from (Washington's) allies in Europe, they (the Americans) have no alternative but to accept the plan and the reconciliations."

Relations

"Ortega hopes to establish relations on the ambassadorial level with all the GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) states," a Gulf-based official said.

"Nicaragua would like to open an embassy in one country with an ambassador who will serve the others in a non-resident capacity," said the official, who wished to remain anonymous.

Plans to upgrade salary ceiling

THE deputy director general of the Public Authority for Social Security Hamad Al Humaidi has said that it is currently involved in studies aimed at finding effective solutions to the growing phenomenon of seeking early retirement, through defining an appropriate age for superannuation.

He told a local daily that the proposed age of retirement for the male is 55. Those seeking early retirement would not be able to do so. In respect to women, the issue is left up to the special government authorities.

He said that there is a plan to uplift the ceiling of salaries covered by the authority to more than KDI,000. The KNPC was currently involved in studies seeking to establish a special fund for its staff to lift the ceiling of their salaries to KDI,300.

He said that the total number of beneficiaries from the existing authority facilities exceeded 47,000.

He said that the current security system enabled each retired person to swap 25 per cent of their salary for financial facilities without the need for an official decision by any authoritative administrator. The authority is currently investing KDI,400 million inside and outside Kuwait in return for reasonable returns, through bonds, real estate and more than 17 different financial portfolios, with the total number of families benefiting from these facilities exceeding 52,000.



Student officers received

Director of the Coast Guards, Col. Ghazi Al Omar received yesterday a number of student officers who will be sent on scholarship to complete studies at the Alexandria Naval Academy in Egypt.

Furniture at throwaway prices

A LARGE fenced area of ground located near Farwaniya Hospital and east of Ardhya was especially designed to hold piles of second hand furniture. A big sign "Ministry of Finance — Used Furniture" easily leads one to it. The merchandise holds large amounts of second hand wooden desks, air-conditioners, stoves, carpets and other items. The place is designated as the private scrap ground for second hand government furniture sales.

Scrap visitors say that the area is limited and is uncovered but, prices are very reasonable. Those who buy second hand furniture in large quantities resell it again at the Jabra or the Sheep Souq.

One of the buyers indicated that government furniture scrap area has good quality carpets and it is hard for anybody to notice that it is second hand. All it needs is a bit of dusting. He said that prices are excellent but, most of the furniture is displayed in an unorganised manner. He proposed that more care should be taken in cleaning these items to attract more customers and every effort should be made to

keep items on sale covered when not on display. Um Saeed another scrap visitor stated that the current scrap location is far better than the old scrap. She indicated that shoppers could find all their requirements here, cheap. Um Saeed bought herself a carpet, a dining table and some curtains.

The sales manager of cabins and tables stated that he obtains KD300 daily from sales of these items. He added that a lot of effort is put in to provide customers with their choice of furniture. He said that he has his own carpenter who repairs usable furniture items, and that the rest of the wood will be sold at wholesale prices to merchants.

Salah Al Deen Sadeq, the controller of local purchases at Kuwait Company for Collecting and Cutting Metals stated that a special decree issued by the Ministers Council stated that all scrap furniture from government housing is bought solely by his company. He added that prices are put up by a special committee at the Ministry of Finance.

Amendments to public cleanliness law under study

4,961 violations until August

THE assistant director general for health affairs at Kuwait Municipality Saeed Faraj Al Muhannad expounded on an ongoing study to investigate the possibility of introducing recommended amendments to the existing public cleanliness law, which has been in force since June 1987.

Speaking to a local daily, he said that the implementation of the law was progressing satisfactorily. All provisions under this law are being fully implemented and the total number of tickets issued to violators until last August totalled 4,961.

Preparations are currently underway to organise a training course for women inspectors, to be qualified to handle the enforcement of the provisions under the public cleanliness law among women.

He pointed out that relevant authorities at the Municipality were currently involved in intensive preparations to organise the Cleanliness Week to be launched late next month. Such events are primarily arranged with the view of raising public awareness.

He said that the current cleanliness law is aimed at straightening negative individual attitudes towards public cleanliness which are attributable to their different cultural backgrounds.

Another major purpose for the current cleanliness law is to encourage individual and group participation and contributions to the government-sponsored cleaning services, through organising campaigns urging both residents and citizens to uplift their level of commitment to the country's

public service law.

Muhammad said that statistical data over the past period showed that the number of tickets issued to violators of the cleanliness law stood at 876 during the period from June 21, 1987 to Dec 31, 1987, being the beginning of law application.

He added that the number of such tickets then rose to 4213 during January 1988 up to December the same year, while more tickets were later issued during the period from January to early September 1989, bringing the total to 4,961.

He continued that notices and pledges were also issued during the year 1987, which totalled 2827 pledges and 2561 notices. In 1988 the number rose to 3372 pledges and 3971 notices, yet the number

still rose in 1989 to 6638 pledges and 7692 notices.

Three categories of personnel were given the authority to issue tickets to violators of the public cleanliness law. The first covered all personnel operating within the Public Cleanliness Department, the second some municipal staff members, and third involved certain employees in other government agencies.

The activities of the upcoming public cleanliness week would mainly stress the importance of high public awareness and co-operation with the relevant government circles in protecting and keeping the country clean to emphasise this important aspect and help nourish a public sense of responsibility and involvement in keeping the country clean.

GCC stock markets may unify: Qabandi

Call to permit expats to invest locally

THE GCC Stock Markets will gradually close ranks and eventually during the coming decade will be unified with branches in member states, Abdullah Al Qabandi, chairman and managing director at Kuwait Foreign Trading, Contracting and Investment Company (KFTCIC), said.

The 1980s had witnessed a radical retreat in inflation rates compared to the 1970s. This scenario had enhanced interest in securities at the expense of

precious metals and real estate. Initially, in the 1980s, Kuwait had witnessed considerable increase in the prices of shares and real estate. Unfortunately, the Manakh crisis, the Iran-Iraq war and the drastic drop in oil prices created economic sluggishness and contributed to a retreat.

Talking about the situation on national investments, the official said that the local market has witnessed significant development in the investment field.

Translation of the ceasefire between Iraq and Iran into a permanent peace treaty is essential to give financial aspects a boost.

To re-activate the investment climate in the country, the official called for reorganising the investment process by creating new avenues such as joint investment funds, options, warrant and convertible bonds.

Additionally, Qabandi called for permitting expatriates to participate in local investments, either through investments in

real estate or shares or through the proposed joint investment funds.

Blocs

Replying to the effects of establishing of some international economic blocs such as the EEC in 1992 and the establishment of blocs by Asian countries, Qabandi said that Kuwait had diversified its investments since 1960. Thus, establishing the EEC in 1992 will create a major market for the companies which Kuwait used to invest its funds in

since the 1960s, the official said. Thus, Kuwait which for quite some time has been active in international markets will be able to work within the framework of these markets, he added.

On the possibility of increasing local and Gulf investments, the official said that light industries as well as non oil industries constitute special attraction to Kuwait and Arab Gulf areas. Further, heavy industries proved unsuccessful, he said.



Premier visits military hospital

HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah yesterday toured the newly-opened military hospital accompanied by Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah and Planning Minister and Acting Public Health Minister Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi.

Sheikh Saad, who was received at the hospital by Defence Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Jaber as well as senior defence officials, listened to a brief explanation about the hospital's facilities.

HH praised the hospital's level of services and equipment, and wished the hospital's staff success in carrying out their duties toward Kuwait.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ortega leaves

KUWAIT, Oct 17, (Kuna): Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega and the accompanying delegation left Kuwait this morning at conclusion of a four-day state visit.

HH the Amir topped the farewell party along with HH the Crown Prince and Premier, head of the National Guards, minister of the Amiri Diwan affairs, ministers, senior state officials and dean of the diplomatic corps.

HH the Amir and President Ortega exchanged cables of greetings at conclusion of the head of state's visit.

Amiri audience

KUWAIT, Oct 17, (Kuna): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah today received Senegalese Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs Serigne Lamine Diop, during which he handed him a message from Senegalese President Abdou Diouf.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Oil and Acting Minister of Finance Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa Al Athbi and the Senegalese Ambassador to Kuwait.

D'ibouti minister

KUWAIT, Oct 17, (Kuna): D'ibouti's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation Moumin Bahdon Farah arrived here today, carrying a message from President Hassan Gouled to HH the Amir.

Farah was received at the airport by State Minister for Foreign Affairs Saad Al Ossaime and a number of ranking ministry officials.

New credentials

KUWAIT, Oct 17, (Kuna): Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Saoud Mohammed Al Ossaime today received copies of the credentials of four new ambassadors to Kuwait.

The new ambassadors are from New Zealand, India, Mali and Mexico.

The ceremony was attended by Foreign Ministry's Undersecretary Suliman Maguid Al Shahin and director of the protocol department at the ministry Ahmed Abdul Wahid Al Ayoub.

Islamic heritage

KUWAIT, Oct 17, (Kuna): The society of Islamic Heritage Revival today said it accomplished 32 mosques and 12 Islamic schools in different areas of Kenya.

The society's head of the African Committee Jassem Al Inati said that it had dug 14 wells, constructed 3 Islamic centres and a cattle farm and assigned 46 preachers in the same country.

On the other hand, the society also finalised another Islamic centre in Nairobi financed to the tune of KD 65,000 by Kuwaiti donor, Moudhi Sultan Al Issa.

Fahds arrive

KUWAIT, Oct 17, (Kuna): Kuwait's Defence Minister was quoted here today as saying that the first batch of Egyptian-made Fahd armoured vehicles was received by Kuwait lately.

In a statement to a local newspaper, Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Sabah also said Kuwait will not hesitate to purchase any weapons made by Arab countries if the weapons are needed here and are of high quality.

The defence minister did not disclose the number of the armoured vehicles received nor did he say how many more shipments Kuwait will receive.

However, in Cairo today Al-Akhbar newspaper quoted Chairman of the Arab Authority for Military Production Ibrahim Orabi as saying that in the middle of November Kuwait will receive 44 armoured vehicles and 400 jeeps made in Egypt.

He added that the shipment is the second under a purchase agreement signed between the two countries, but did not disclose if there will be a third shipment.

Kharafi returns

KUWAIT, Oct 17, (Kuna): Interior Undersecretary Yousef Bader Al Kharafi and the delegation accompanying him returned here last night from Riyadh after attending the preparatory meeting for the conference of the interior ministers of the Gulf Co-operation Council states.



Bernard Ziegler (right), once a test pilot for Airbus Industrie and now a vice-president in the company's engineering department, shows a V-sign before take-off.

KAC may buy four Airbus 320s: Mishari

By Jadranka Porter Arab Times staff

KUWAIT AIRWAYS may buy four \$42-million Airbus 320, the hi-tech fly-by-wire aircraft, to replace its ageing Boeing 727s, according to the airline's chairman Ahmed Al Mishari. Final decision will be taken in six weeks after an evaluation of other options, he added.

The strongest rival to the European-made plane is the American-made Boeing 737-400.

Mishari said he was impressed by the Airbus 320. "It is an advanced aircraft with a good future" he told the Arab Times yesterday after an hour's VIP press flight over Kuwait in an Airbus 320 that will next month join the West German Lufthansa fleet.

Gulf Air, the airline owned by four Gulf states, Bahrain, Oman, the UAE and Qatar, is said to be close to signing an order for 12 Airbus 320, the manufacturer, Airbus Industrie, told the Arab Times.

Since it was first launched 18 months ago Airbus 320 has been one of the fastest selling aircraft with more than 500 planes having been ordered and about 60 delivered.

What distinguishes this aircraft is its new technology and composite materials which makes it lighter, cheaper and safer, Alain Dupiech of Airbus Industrie said.

It is the only fly-by-wire commercial airliner which means that the pilot's commands are transmitted as electronic signals through wires to actuators instead of mechanically via a heavy and complex system of steel cables and pulleys, explained Ian Bain, the manufacturer's PR consultant. Fly-by-wire controls driven by computers protect the aircraft against manoeuvres which would cause damage to the airframe, as well as against flying too fast or stalling, he added.

Mishari indicated that four new aircraft for Kuwait Airways will only be an initial purchase with others to follow. "We shall buy four planes to start with" he said. Airbus Industrie is already booking orders for its new aircraft, Airbus 330 and Airbus 340, to be launched within the next two years that will also use fly-by-wire technology.

Pilots flying Airbus 320 will be able to fly the new aircraft without additional training, Dupiech said. Airlines that acquire all three models will save substantially on maintenance, he added.

The four-engine Airbus 340 is expected to be one of the world's longest range planes capable of flying the London-Sydney route non-stop.

Continued education conference Oct 21-24

By Fathima Ahmed Arab Times staff

KUWAIT'S Minister of Higher Education, Prof. Ali Abdullah Al Shamlan is to open an applied education conference on Saturday.

The four-day conference, from Oct 21 to 24, focuses on "Individual and Community Development," aimed at examining new trends in continuing education. Adult literacy and vocational training for individuals who do not get formal education will also be examined.

Training for all age groups is considered to be a vital factor in developing native manpower. The participants are to look into new trends that can be incorporated in the educational policy to meet national manpower needs.

Participants will examine new applied education methods; special programmes offered and principles of syllabus design. Practical ways to help individuals cope with socio-economic changes will also be studied. These will be studied in the context of advances made in other world countries.

Research papers will be read on planning, teaching, training methods, educational institutions and administrative and supervisory methods. They will also follow-up and evaluate various educational programmes.

Educationists from 18 countries, including Gulf and Arab, will take part in the conference. Experts from Canada, Finland, Germany, UK and US will also participate.

Organisations such as Unesco, Oapcc, Islamic Education, Sciences and Culture Organisation and others will also be represented.

A workshop on applied education will be held from Oct 25 to study labour needs and highlight training requirements.

Floating eye hospital

Special micro-surgery presentation, Oct 22

MORE than 150 eye specialists and general practitioners from around the Gulf are expected to attend a special presentation in Dubai next week to be hosted by famed Soviet eye surgeon, Professor Syvatolav Fyodorov.

The presentation, which will take place next Sunday (October 22), will be held on board the Soviet floating eye hospital, the Petr Pervyy.

Professor Fyodorov, the man who pioneered eye micro-surgery techniques and perfected the use of artificial lens implantation, will outline to his Gulf audience the methods used at the celebrated Moscow Eye Clinic — methods reputed to be between 10 to 15 years ahead of conventional eye surgery. These include radial keratotomy myopia correction, cataract removal and silicone IOL lens implantation.

The doctors will be given the chance to question the professor and tour the medical centre on board the 10,000 ton vessel, including the seven-stage diagnostics line and automated sight recovery line in the computerised multi-stage operating theatre.

Doctors wishing to attend the demonstration can contact the organisers, Bain Communications on Dubai 522346.

The Petr Pervyy is due to dock in Jebel Ali port this Wednesday for a six months stay. A team of seven Fyodorov-trained surgeons are on board and can carry out up to 60 operations a day.

More than thirty different types of operations and treatments will be available on board the ship including laser interventions.

The vessel has been chartered by an organisation known as Floks (Flot-Oko-Service), which is a joint venture between the Moscow Eye Clinic and Sovcomflot, a leading Soviet shipping company. It was converted into an eye hospital earlier this year at a cost of US\$12.75m.

Reuters mark 25 years in Kuwait

REUTERS, the world news and information organisation, on Monday marked the 25th anniversary of its opening in Kuwait with a reception at its new offices in the Kuwait Stock Exchange building.

The reception was attended by senior government officials, diplomats and Reuters clients from the media and banking and financial sectors.

Reuters Manager for Kuwait and Iraq, Barry Simpson, said in a speech at the reception that Reuters hoped it had contributed, through the news and information services it provides, to the growth and prosperity of the Kuwaiti economy.

"News and information are the life-blood of businesses of every description and indeed, an important part of all our daily lives."

"How much poorer would our lives be, how much more limited our knowledge of the world around us without the daily flow of news from around the globe, from Reuters and other sources, to our newspapers, television and radio stations?" Simpson said.

He said much had changed in the 25 years since Reuters opened in Kuwait.

"Communications and information technology have advanced at a staggering pace, making the world a smaller place. Major news developments flash around the world in seconds. Financial markets have become vastly more complex, more volatile, responding instantly to new developments."

"These changes offer both a challenge and an opportunity, to both the user and the provider of information. Our aim is to remain at the forefront of advances in technology, to provide our clients with the competitive edge so vital to their continuing success."

Simpson said that in the almost 140 years since its foundation Reuters had built up a world-wide reputation for accuracy, speed and objectivity in the services it provided.

"We remain today as committed to those goals as ever, determined to remain the premier provider of fast, accurate and reliable news and information, both in Kuwait and around the world," he added.

Reuters supplies a wide range of services to both business subscribers and to the news media. It obtains its information from around 160 exchanges and over-the-counter markets, from data contributed directly by more than 3,680 subscribers in 80 countries and from a network of over 1,200 journalists, photographers and cameramen.

Reuters distributed information via some 177,000 video terminals and teleprinters and directly into clients' computers.

KPTC can provide transportation: Haroon

CHAIRMAN of the Kuwait Public Transportation Company, KPTC, Abdul Wahab Al Haroon has supported the idea of restricting private transportation vehicles from entering crowded areas. He said that the idea of allowing only public transportation to enter such areas should be implemented. He added that KPTC has the ability to provide the necessary public transportation for passengers. He said that this system is being used in quite a few areas in Kuwait like the Embassies Complex and the Shuaiba Industrial Area and that it should be expanded to cover other areas. He added that the success of this system in those areas, should be a motive to encourage the authorities to expand its use.

Haroon said that the success of the tourist bus route opposite the Waterfront Project, encouraged the KPTC to inaugurate another marine route. He announced that the future plans of the KPTC includes more concentration towards tourism services.

For hire

Haroon added that the statistics of 1988 show that the KPTC carried 119 million passengers during that year on all its 57 routes which were operating last year. He added that 1,050 buses were also hired to the Ministry of Education for the transportation of students and as many as 26.5 million students used KPTC buses last year. Besides, the KPTC provided 138 buses and 80 cars for the collective transportation of employees of several ministries.

KPTC also runs buses to Saudi Arabia for people interested in performing Haj and Umrah. During this season, 4,350 Kuwaiti pilgrims were carried in KPTC buses. The company ferries, shuttling between Failaka island and the mainland has carried 571,000 passengers in 8,560 trips.

On KPTC efforts to encourage private car owners to use KPTC buses, Haroon said that the company bought highly luxurious and airconditioned buses and runs them at fixed and organised times. But he admitted that traffic jams are the major obstacle to these buses arriving on time. He added that there are very encouraging signs that some people have started using public transport instead of using their cars.



Barry Simpson (right) with officials from the Ministry of Information at the reception.

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

CONCEALED talent brings no reputation — Erasmus, Dutch scholar (about 1466-1536).

A psychological threat

Water issue very sensitive in Israel

AS much as Israel hates the idea of yielding land to the Palestinians, to achieve peace it may also have to give up something nearly as valuable — water.

A peace settlement giving rule of the West Bank to the Palestinians would end Israel's physical control of an aquifer which supplies 20 per cent of the country's fresh water consumption.

The Jewish state would have to agree to reduce the amount it draws from the aquifer so that its Palestinian neighbours could develop their economy, Israeli water experts believe.

"The issue is very sensitive in Israel because of the psychological threat of hostile neighbours cutting off our resources," said Professor Hillel Shoval of Jerusalem's Hebrew University.

Right wing Israelis opposed to yielding control of the West Bank captured from Jordan in 1967, have seized on the issue.

"A Palestinian state in the West Bank would be like giving your drinking water to (Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman) Yasser Arafat," the opposition Tsomet Party said in a press campaign this month.

Scientists dismiss the idea of intentional sabotage of the West Bank aquifer, but agree that the issue of sharing it is central to the debate on peace.

"Access to the aquifer will be important in dictating Israel's position on setting its border with a Palestinian state," said Joseph Alpher, deputy head of the Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University.

"And no settlement could ever succeed without finding a way to regulate mutual access to the water," Israel's consumed far more water per capita than Palestinians, he noted.

"The Palestinians will say 'we want to develop too' — there will have to be greater symmetry of use," Alpher said.

Israel has barred any extra withdrawal from the aquifer, in effect curtailing increased irrigation and farm output in the West Bank.

Experts say Israel is already using virtually all its annual renewable fresh water supplies of 1.5 billion cubic metres.

Springs, rainwater and melted snow from south Lebanon and the Golan Heights are a major source. Stored in Lake Galilee, the water is pumped along a national water carrier to the Negev desert in the south, irrigation crops along the way.

Another 300 million cubic metres comes from recycling sewage, a field in which Israel is a world leader.

"The situation is very tight," said Shoval, an environmental scientist.

"That's why there's such a frantic reaction to any threat to our water resources."

"We're dealing with national aspirations — the Zionist dream to create a green hinterland in Palestine and allow Jews to be farmers again."

Elisha Kally, a water engineer who has studied the role joint water projects could play in peace treaties with Arab neighbours, said Israel did not have to physically occupy the West Bank to maintain its water rights there.

"Under international law, historical use of water is decisive in determining who has rights to it," he said, noting that Israel and Jordan have a water sharing agreement.

Kally and other Israeli experts suggested a settlement with the Palestinians could include agreement by Egypt to take over the supply of water to the Gaza Strip, where overpumping has led to sea water contaminating underground supplies.

"Gaza needs at least 100 million cubic metres of extra water a year, which is one fifth of one per cent of Egyptian consumption but a meaningful amount for Israel," Kally said.

Water has long been a source of conflict between Israel and its neighbours.

In 1953, Damascus protested to the United Nations when the Israelis started building the water carrier on the Jordan River in the demilitarised zone bordering Syria. Israel moved the carrier intake to Lake Galilee.

A decade later Arab states began a project to divert the headwaters of the Jordan, contributing to the outbreak of the 1967 war in which Israel seized the Golan Heights from Syria, securing territory vital for both military and water strategy.

Shoval said Israel, eager for development in the first decades of its existence, had overpumped its other major aquifer on the Mediterranean coast, leading to creeping salination.

The problem became more acute in 1986 when Israel suffered a drought, prompting a review of water policy.

"It's been the hope of Israeli water planners that by the 1990s desalination would be cheap enough to increase the fresh water supply."

"It's been a sort of technological messiah, but it won't be economically feasible in the foreseeable future," Shoval said.

He said Israel's known water resources could supply double the present population of about four million but only if there was a shift away from water-intensive agriculture.

"One family growing cotton uses the same amount of water as 200 families in the urban-industrial sector," Shoval said.

One of the advocates of desalination, former national water commissioner Meir Ben-Meir, said efforts to develop cheap methods should be stepped up.

"We must bear in mind that at some time in the first half of the next century there will be an acute crisis involving a shortage of water," he said. (Occupied Jerusalem — Reuters)

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1540 — Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto fights Indians in southern Alabama.
- 1622 — Treaty of Montpellier ends rebellion of Huguenots.
- 1672 — Treaty of Siczuz between Turkey and Poland.
- 1685 — France's King Louis XIV revokes Edict of Nantes, and French Protestants flee.
- 1799 — Duke of York capitulates at Alkmaar, Holland, to French.
- 1810 — Napoleon Bonaparte orders burning of British goods in Napoleonic states.
- 1865 — United States demands withdrawal of French troops from Mexico.
- 1867 — United States takes formal possession of Alaska from Russia.
- 1912 — Italy and Turkey sign peace treaty at Lausanne.
- 1925 — French fleet bombs Damascus, Syria.
- 1944 — Soviet troops invade Czechoslovakia in World War II.
- 1962 — United States urges UN General Assembly to condemn South Africa's racial policy of segregation.
- 1967 — Unmanned Soviet spacecraft drops instruments onto surface of planet Venus, and they radio to earth that the planet's temperature is hot enough to melt metal.
- 1971 — Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin is attacked by demonstrators on parliament grounds in Ottawa, Canada, but is unhurt.
- 1974 — Soviet Union and Egypt agree to support establishment of a Palestinian state.
- 1987 — Indian troops fight their way into Jaffa, stronghold of Tamil rebels in Sri Lanka, and engage in house-to-house combat.
- 1988 — South Korea's President Roh Tae-Woo, at United Nations, extends olive branch to North Korea and calls for early summit meeting at Pyongyang.



President Bush: triumphs and brickbats

Rocking along in public esteem

People clearly back Bush

GEORGE BUSH is nearing the first anniversary of his election with few domestic legislative triumphs to savour and a barrage of attacks from critics who accuse him of weak, wishy-washy leadership.

The 65-year-old Republican President retains a relaxed, affable demeanour despite such adversity — as the recent stock market shocks showed — because the public clearly backs him despite brickbats on issues from budget-cutting to Panama.

Polls show Bush is achieving a public relations feat not even his best friends could have predicted: he is, nine months into a four-year term, even more popular than his legendary mentor, Ronald Reagan, was at a comparable point.

A recent Washington Post/ABC News poll gave him a job approval rating of 76 per cent, a height seldom touched by any US president and well above Reagan's 64 per cent. Bush is, as Secretary of State James Baker likes to say, "rocking along" in public esteem.

He demonstrated the low-keyed composure Americans find reassuring even as Wall Street gyrated through Monday morning jitters after its Friday the 13th plunge. The president just waved off reporters with a nonchalant, "I'm not worried."

While the stock market did rally that day, no one knew when Bush spoke if his confidence was justified economically or politically to make controversial decisions when they need to be made.

His handling of an abortive coup in Panama

brought the worst barrage yet as critics charged Bush missed a chance to oust Manuel Antonio Noriega by acting too cautiously. Timidity, they said, is a hallmark of this White House.

"This President is dithering around with his paddle in the pond without realising that we're nearing Niagara Falls," said James David Barber, a Duke University political scientist.

Even the admiring public seems to doubt Bush's caution.

In the Post/ABC poll more than half those surveyed said he was not doing all he could to solve domestic problems. A similar survey for Time magazine and the Cable News Network gave Bush a lustrous 75 per cent approval but also found that only 49 per cent thought he was taking charge on major issues — and 40 per cent said he just talks about them.

"The (job-approval) polls reflect an 'I'm all right, Jack' attitude — we're at peace and we're relatively prosperous," says political analyst Stephen Hess of the Brookings Institution. "If any of that changes, his standing in the polls would quickly change."

Beyond the polls and the White House optimism is a relatively short list of domestic policy achievements.

Most significant to date is a \$166-billion rescue of the Savings and Loan industry.

A vaunted and highly controversial proposal to reduce capital gains taxes on investment profits — a

cut chiefly beneficial to wealthier citizens — was sidetracked in Congress's struggle to meet obligatory budget-cut goals.

Also languishing on Capitol Hill have been such Bush-backed proposals as a bill to tighten ethical standards for government officials including Congressmen, one to raise the salaries of federal judges and plans to fight crime by building more jails.

Bush's leadership style came under its first sustained fire last month when he launched his much-heralded war on drugs. Even fellow Republicans felt the plan was underfunded and, under pressure from Congress, he agreed to add almost a billion dollars to his original \$7.8 billion proposal.

Congresswoman Patricia Schroeder, who labelled Reagan the "Teflon President" for his ability to escape public blame for administration failures, calls Bush a "Revlon President" who offers only cosmetic solutions.

Bush defenders point out that, unlike Reagan who had a Republican seat on the Supreme Court for six of his eight years, Bush must deal with Democratic majorities in Congress.

Analysts like Hess are not overly impressed.

"His record is certainly not distinguished at this point and it's too easy to blame divided government," Hess said. "We've had divided government for much of our contemporary history and we know how to deal with it." (Washington — Reuters)

De Klerk changes political climate

SINCE becoming president two months ago, F.W. de Klerk has promised repeatedly to seek a "new South Africa." To an extent, it is here already.

In the old South Africa, whites were not turned on the state-run television news or looked at pro-government newspapers and seen African National Congress leader Walter Sisulu gazing out at them, first raised, a free man.

But on Monday, there was Sisulu, flanked by six colleagues, on TV and the front pages of virtually every daily paper in the country. The guerrilla movement technically remains outlawed, but at a news conference Sunday following their release from long prison terms they made clear that they were back at work.

The ANC has never lost its hold on support within the black community, but most whites have accepted the government's view that it was a communist-controlled terrorist group, bent on forcible seizure of power and imposition of a one-party system.

Since De Klerk replaced P.W. Botha in August, however, the political climate has changed dramatically. For the first time, the government is openly acknowledging the ANC's broad popularity among blacks, and even relatively conservative whites are beginning to accept the inevitability of negotiations between the guerrillas and the government.

"A difficult, dangerous period lies ahead of us, but this is inevitable if there is to be a new South Africa," said an editorial Monday in the Citizen, one of the newspapers most loyal to De Klerk.

The change in perceptions was epitomised by the remarkable high-profile coverage which pro-government media gave to the ANC news conference Sunday. Beeld, the largest-circulation daily for the Afrikaners who dominate the government, ran a banner headline, "Sisulu speaks out," above a large colour picture of the seven ANC leaders raising clenched fists.

The South African Broadcasting Corp. showed the same scene on its Morning News and showed Sisulu urging "orderly and disciplined" pressure to force the government into further concessions.

Beeld, significantly, played down the freed prisoners' endorsement of continued guerrilla activity by the ANC and began its article with Sisulu's call for a democratic system in which either a black or a white could be president. There seemed to be no effort by the newspaper, nor by the TV network, to stir up antipathy toward the ANC.

The release of the seven ANC leaders, along with a member of a smaller guerrilla movement, was the most dramatic move yet taken by De Klerk, but it followed a series of recent steps by government officials aimed at enhancing the prospects for black-white negotiations.

Among these moves:

■ For the first time in years, the government has allowed mass demonstrations and marches by anti-apartheid activists. Hundreds of thousands of people have joined these marches in recent weeks, openly displaying ANC banners which in the past were likely to provoke police action.

■ The pace of desegregation has quickened. Johannesburg, the country's largest city, has eliminated the last of its whites-only public facilities, and only a handful of beaches remain segregated.

■ De Klerk met for three hours with three prominent anti-apartheid church leaders, including Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu, by far the longest such talks in recent years between a head of state and black activists. Government officials held their first direct negotiations with activists on a 3-year-old rent boycott in Soweto, the country's largest black township.

There is debate over the degree to which these moves were influenced by foreign political pressure. De Klerk says he intended to move toward racial reconciliation regardless of overseas opinion, but there is no question that the threat of further sanctions has been on his mind.

"De Klerk had to move quickly after his inauguration," Con Botha, chief spokesman for the governing National Party, said Monday. "This (the prisoner release) is a continuation of what he said he would do to make it possible for the leaders to get together to negotiate."

As yet, De Klerk has won only modest praise for his moves, both at home and abroad. Those whose goal is a non-racial democracy are unlikely to applaud until the national party negotiates itself out of power.

Almost wistfully, De Klerk spoke of this lack of recognition after meeting Tutu last week.

"It appears as if the undertakings of this government have not been fully appreciated," he said. (Johannesburg — AP)

Art Buchwald

'You'll never make a best seller as a man'

EVERY two years I put out a new book and then make a tour of the talk shows plugging it. I can't do it anymore because this year it's impossible for someone who is not (ital) really (unital) weird to get on TV.

I discovered this when I walked into Lisa Johnson's office at the Putnam's and she said, "I've never heard anything so ridiculous in my life. The people at Phil Donahue's say they were very sorry but they can't put you on the show unless you have a sex-change operation."

I laughed. "That's a good one."

She wasn't laughing. She looked at me and said, "We'll pay for it."

"Now, Lisa, you know that I'm not going to have a sex-change operation just to sell a few books."

"That's your decision, but you will never make the best-seller lists as a man."

"What about Oprah Winfrey?" I asked.

"We talked to her producer. This month they're only doing people who were physically abused by

their pets when they were children."

"I had a dog who once bit me on the ankle. Any bulletins from Geraldine Rivera?"

"On his upcoming show he's featuring inmates who learned to cook key lime pie on Death Row."

"What about next Monday? I wanted to know."

"He has a week-long series on pimps with their grandmothers."

"Count me out. I'm sorry Morton Downey Jr. is no longer on the air. I would have thrown a chair at him."

Lisa said, "It's an entirely different ball game this year. Everyone is in the rating game and you have to be really far out to get on a show. Maury Povich, who used to be a great interviewer, will not have you on his programme unless you've had kinky correspondence with the fax machine."

"What about the local show?"

"They're no better. You're not going to get a plug on TV unless you are on the FBI's 10 most wanted list."

"It doesn't seem fair. Perhaps I could confess to a yearning to jog nude with the bears in Yellowstone National Park."

Lisa sounded harassed. "Our job is not to bemoan the state of affairs of talk TV, but to do something about it. We have to fulfill their production needs."

"I can't become a werewolf," I said.

"Maybe not," Lisa agreed. "I had a tip that Joan Rivers is doing vampires who use steroids."

"You mean bloodsuckers in sports?"

"That's what I heard."

By this time Lisa was in tears. "How can I possibly get you on TV if your father wasn't even in Estonian war criminal?" she asked.

I tried to reassure her. "The sex change sounds the easiest, but I won't have it unless they promise to give me the full hour on Donahue."

"He'll only take you with Barbara Walters."

"Is she going to have a sex-change operation, too?"

"She has to if she's got a book coming out."

Just decision

SIR: The decision to discontinue Urdu pages in the Arab Times might have hurt a section of people totally alien to any other language except Urdu, but I feel the decision was just and in the right place.

Despite the fact that I myself belong to Lucknow, the place where Urdu language rules, prospers and dominates regardless of religion, cult and creed, I think the inclusion of Urdu pages in an English daily does not really match the requirements so far as the news coverage to the utter satisfaction of Urdu speaking community is concerned and therefore the basic purpose remains unserved.

Besides, many of those interested in these pages do not really like to pay 150 fils for only 2-3 pages and let the rest of 16-17 pages of English go to the dustbin unread. This is why they always look forward to borrow the newspaper, have a quick look and return. In addition, there has lately been a sort of groaning and grumbling as regards to the news coverage in the Urdu pages which is mostly very poor and not upto date as the write ups related to some of the obscure local individuals of various trades like poets, etc. had been given undue lion's share in the 2-3 and already meagre pages of Urdu.

I would rather suggest if any of the newspaper establishments could undertake the project of a separate newspaper in Urdu language in order to cater to the people of the subcontinent both in Kuwait and other Gulf countries. Since there is no dearth of journalism oriented class in Kuwait, I am sure such a newspaper with its vast coverage of local and international news shall be the best replacement for the Urdu pages and the readers shall readily buy as they will be paying for the newspaper as a whole and not only for a few pages.

Syed Manzoor Alam, Safat.

Readers disillusioned

SIR: A host of your readers are utterly disillusioned by your drastic step of discontinuing the Urdu pages. It was a bold and greatest service you were rendering to the Pakistani and Indian community by publishing the Urdu pages. Now that it is discontinued the vast majority of your readers are left with no other alternative. As it was your experience, there will not be any dearth of rationale. Many aspiring writers in Urdu could have brought you material of high quality.

It will be a genuine service if you will resume publication of the Urdu pages. All your readers would be more than pleased.

J.N. Verghese, Safat.

Revise decision

SIR: Both Indians and Pakistani expatriates who played significant role in development of Kuwait are missing Urdu pages in your unique, distinctive newspaper. It was the only newspaper presenting news, information, cultural, literary stories of South-East Asia. I hope keeping the feelings of these people in mind you will revise your decision. From financial point of view it is feasible so, please check. You are well-known for your bold and adventurous policies. Urdu speaking community is anxiously waiting for your favourable action.

Zahed M. Ali, Safat.

The day Hemant died

SIR: How ironical. The day Hemant Kumar died I was on my way to Murgab area where I buy "Screen" every Thursday. For several years I have been listening to Rafi, Lata Mangeshkar and Mukesh but on that particular day I was enjoying the music of Hemant Kumar, not knowing that the great singer and musician was no more.

Way back in the car I turned the music on and there came a nice song from "Majboor" (1964) starring Biswajit. The song goes this way: *Tumhe jo bhi dekh lega, Kisi ka na ho sakega, Pari ho bala ho kiya ho tum.* And this time after I knew about the man's death the song had a special taste. Another Hemant Kumar song which I like very much is, *Hai apna dil to awara*, from "Soiva Saal" starring Dev Anand.

Ali Behbehani, Hawalli.

Quote me

"Even on a charitable assessment, the combined opposition is not capable of forming a stable administration. Sometimes it seems that it is combined only by hatred for the Bhutto name." — Pakistani opposition politician, Ghulam Mustafa Khar in a news conference burying the hatchet with Benazir.

"I haven't reached my peak by a long way. Train harder than any man in the world. That is my secret. The day I meet a man who trains harder than I do, then I will quit. I will only be in London for a few days but I intend to train and to running every day." — George Foreman envisaging the impossible of taking Tyson's title.

"I spoke to (US promoter) Don King two weeks ago and he is ready to do business. After two years of slighting me, he is now taking me seriously. If Tyson keeps winning and I stay undefeated, I would probably meet him in June next year." — Former heavyweight king George Foreman on a probable fight with Tyson if he keeps on winning his bouts.

"I'll beat him because I train harder than he does and I'm a better fighter." — Ex-heavyweight king George Foreman giving an assessment of his upcoming fight with South African, Gerry Cooney.

"I don't think much of Tyson. Through boxing history, the world champion is always portrayed as indestructible and tough. But there is always someone harder who comes along and whips him. The things Tyson does, he does well. But he's going to whip him easily." — George Foreman making it look easy against Tyson.

"I realized long ago that I could not depend on luck to bring me success. I worked hard, extra hard to improve my chance by increasing my abilities and my experience. It was my goal to accomplish, in my life, something of value and to do it with self respect and integrity." — Cornel Wilde who died Monday of leukaemia.

"I am still training with the boys in Philadelphia. But I am too busy enjoying life to think about a comeback." — Ex-champ "Smoking" Joe Frazier saying there's more to life than boxing.

سكيا اوت الاصل

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Asian markets rebound as fears of crash abate



Taiwan investor smiles with happiness and re-found wealth as the stock index posted a record one day gain of 410 points on Oct 17. A wave of optimism turned around two days of sharp losses and sent the market back over the 10,000 mark. (Reuters wirephoto)

Investor smiles

TAIPEI, Oct 17: Taiwan stock exchange posted largest one-day gain on news of the rapid recovery of the New York and Tokyo markets.

In Manila, share prices closed 0.87 per cent higher in moderate trading. The 410.32-point gain in Taiwan — 4.23 per cent — followed a drop of 329.48 points on Monday.

Share prices in Australia and New Zealand rallied as well.

The All-Ordinaries index, Australia's main market indicator, closed 61.6 points, or 3.8 per cent, higher today after a 140.4-point fall on Monday.

In New Zealand, the Barclays index gained 117.70 points, or 5.7 per cent, rebounding from an 8.5 per cent fall on Monday.

Friday's fall was set off by nerves about the financing of takeover bids which have pushed Wall Street to record highs, and particularly the use of high-yield, high-risk junk bonds.

The FTSE took a hammering before Wall Street showed the way back on Monday, and London dealers said investors were now concentrating on the basics of the British economy.

Interest rates at an eight-year high of 15 per cent, a huge trade deficit and stubborn inflation make for a gloomy outlook.

"Looking at fundamentals, it's not so much a junk bond issue as a junk economy issue," said Stephen Hannan, head of research of Natwest treasury and capital markets. "The stock market falls have helped focus minds on signs of the weak economy."

Computer problems caused by a flood of orders to buy, a reverse of Monday when sell orders led to a 12.8 per cent fall.

When it finally opened the 30-share Dax index was 4.3 per cent higher.

"What happened yesterday had nothing to do with the stock market. It was just a technological game," said one Frankfurt dealer.

The Paris bourse, which had to suspend trading in leading shares on Monday because they fell more than their allowed limit, bounced back today. The CAC-40 index rose a healthy 2.17 per cent.

Madrid, the booming young stock market of Europe, likewise perked up, posting a 4.5 per cent gain at the opening.

Milan, which also suspended dealing in major shares on Monday, opened 3.4 per cent higher.

Dow down, Fed pumps more cash

(Continued from Page 1)

In the overall New York Stock Exchange this morning, issues outperformed advances by about 3-10 after the first two hours of trading. Volume on the New York Stock Exchange totaled a heavier-than-usual 95 million shares.

Stocks rallied in Tokyo in response to Wall Street's strength yesterday, but London's market lost ground in sympathy with today's weakness on the New York Stock Exchange.

In Tokyo, where today trading ended before New York opened for business, the Nikkei stock average jumped by 227.39 points, or 1.5 per cent, to 34,986.08. The gain was the second biggest on the Japanese market this year and erased most of yesterday's 647.33-point decline.

In London, the Financial Times-Stock Exchange 100-stock index was down 23.7 points, or more than 1 per cent, to 2,139.7. London, the biggest market, finished up with a relatively moderate decline, but Frankfurt, which suffered a record drop yesterday, saw big gains in urgent buying.

In the morning, European share prices followed Tokyo's climb in relief over New York's strong finish yesterday and that an all-out crash appeared to have been averted.

But then European share prices fell in the afternoon on worse-than-expected US trade figures and on a subsequent weak opening on Wall Street.

The US trade deficit rose to \$10.77 billion, compared with market expectations of around \$9.1 billion.

Wall Street's Dow Jones industrial average was down 27.87 points, or one per cent, at 2,629.51 as about the time London closed.

The German Stock Index (Dax), which had plunged 12.8 per cent in its worst one-day drop ever yesterday, soared 89.72 points, or 4.2 per cent, to 2,139.74.

Frankfurt's trading volume even surpassed yesterday's as small investors rushed to buy back some of the stocks they had dumped, and institutional funds took advantage of the lower prices to boost their holdings.

In Madrid, the Madrid stock market's general index rose 5.96 points, or 2 per cent, to a provisional closing figure of 311.18. The index fell 6.5 per cent yesterday.

The Athens Stock Exchange general index rose 42.63 points, or 9.4 per cent at 497.79. It dropped 10.05 per cent yesterday.

TOKYO, Oct 17, (Agencies): An early buying spree led by Japanese institutional investors drove Tokyo stocks sharply higher today, nearly erasing the previous day's loss.

"Psychologically people are still hesitant. We want to see if the market is okay over the next one or two days," said Masatoshi Nakamura, manager of international trading for Goldman Sachs (Japan).

The 225-share Nikkei index closed up 227.39 points or 1.53 per cent, at 34,986.08. It had plunged 647.33 points on Monday.

Although some analysts say the volatility is almost over, many players are still shaken from this week's rollercoaster ride.

"Wednesday is the key market," said Tadashi Kawakami, trader for Merrill Lynch Japan.

"We are still watching the markets nervously," said Toyoharu Tsutsui, managing director at CS First Boston (Japan). "The volatility is the crucial point."

Construction shares led the winners.

The Tokyo stock market tumbled on Monday in sympathy with Wall Street's 191-point plunge on Friday, the second biggest one-day drop for the New York market.

Analysts said investors were encouraged by the recovery on Wall Street and statements by Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan that the US Central Bank would intervene to prevent a crash.

Japanese Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto repeated remarks he made Monday that he wasn't seriously concerned about the impact of Friday's plunge in New York on Japanese markets.

Market movements

LONDON, Oct 17, (Reuters): The following table shows the latest closes of key indices on major world stock exchanges, the day's change in points and the index's 1989 high and low (with dates). Also shown are the London closes of the West German mark, the Japanese yen, the pound sterling and gold bullion (previous closes in brackets).

	Oct 17 close	Day's change in points	1989 high	1989 low
New York	2,629.10 (noon)	-27.87	2,791.41 (Jan 3)	2,144.64 (Jan 3)
London	2,139.7	-23.7	2,438.0 (Sept 5)	1,782.8 (Jan 3)
Tokyo	34,986.08	+227.39	35,689.98 (Jan 3)	30,183.79 (Jan 3)
Frankfurt	623.02	+40.22	690.91 (Jan 5)	535.78 (Jan 3)
Paris	526.5	+3.0	561.6 (Feb 27)	417.5 (Jan 3)
Sydney	1,662.6	+61.7	1,781.8 (Jan 4)	1,412.2 (Jan 3)
Hong Kong	2,695.90	+94.20	3,309.64 (May 15)	2,093.61 (June 5)

Foreign exchange/gold bullion close in London

	1.8520 marks	1.8645 dollars/yen	141.50 yen	141.65 pound/dollar	1,5820 dollars	1,5780 gold
	367.75 dollars	(366.25)				

Indices used and their all-time highs

	1.8520 marks	1.8645 dollars/yen	141.50 yen	141.65 pound/dollar	1,5820 dollars	1,5780 gold
New York Dow Jones industrial average	2,791.41	(Oct 9/89)				
London FTSE index	2,443.4	(July 18/87)				
Tokyo Nikkei Average	35,689.98	(Jan 3/89)				
Frankfurt PSE index	733.88	(April 17/86)				
Paris CAC General index	561.6	(Oct 11/89)				
Sydney Australian All-Ordinaries index	2,305.9	(Sept 21/87)				
Hong Kong Hang Seng index	3,949.73	(Oct 1/87)				

"I don't think markets moved that sharply (this time)," he said at a news conference after a regular cabinet meeting today.

But Haruhito Ichimura, a trader with Nippon Kangyo Kakumaru Securities, warned that it was too early to tell whether the New York market had completely recovered from its fall.

On the Tokyo foreign exchange market, the US dollar closed at 142.25 yen, up 1.50 yen from Monday's close of 140.75. It opened at 141.97 yen and ranged between 141.80 and 142.35 yen. The dollar had plunged 3.25 yen on Monday.

Mitsubishi Kinugasa, a dealer with Daiwa Bank, said there had been rumours that Japanese banks again were backing away from a revised plan for financing a buyout of United Airlines parent company. The refusal of banks, mostly Japanese, to commit their funds to a similar plan last week led to Friday's plunge on Wall Street.

But Kinugasa said the rumours did not have a major impact on the market.

Elsewhere today, Hong Kong's Hang Seng index, the market's key indicator of blue chips, rose 117 points to 2,695.90 in the first 10 minutes of trading, before settling back to 2,694 by the end of the morning session. The index had plunged 6.5 per cent Monday after the Wall

Street plunge

Share prices on the securities exchange of Thailand also rebounded strongly today after a record 42-point fall the previous day.

In Hong Kong, the Hang Seng index jumped 103.3 points, or nearly 4 per cent, in the first 20 minutes of trading to stand at 2,705, quickly regaining more than half the 180 points it lost the previous day.

The Australian and New Zealand market also bounced back, posting sharp gains in early trading after a day of near-record losses, brokers in Sydney and Wellington said.

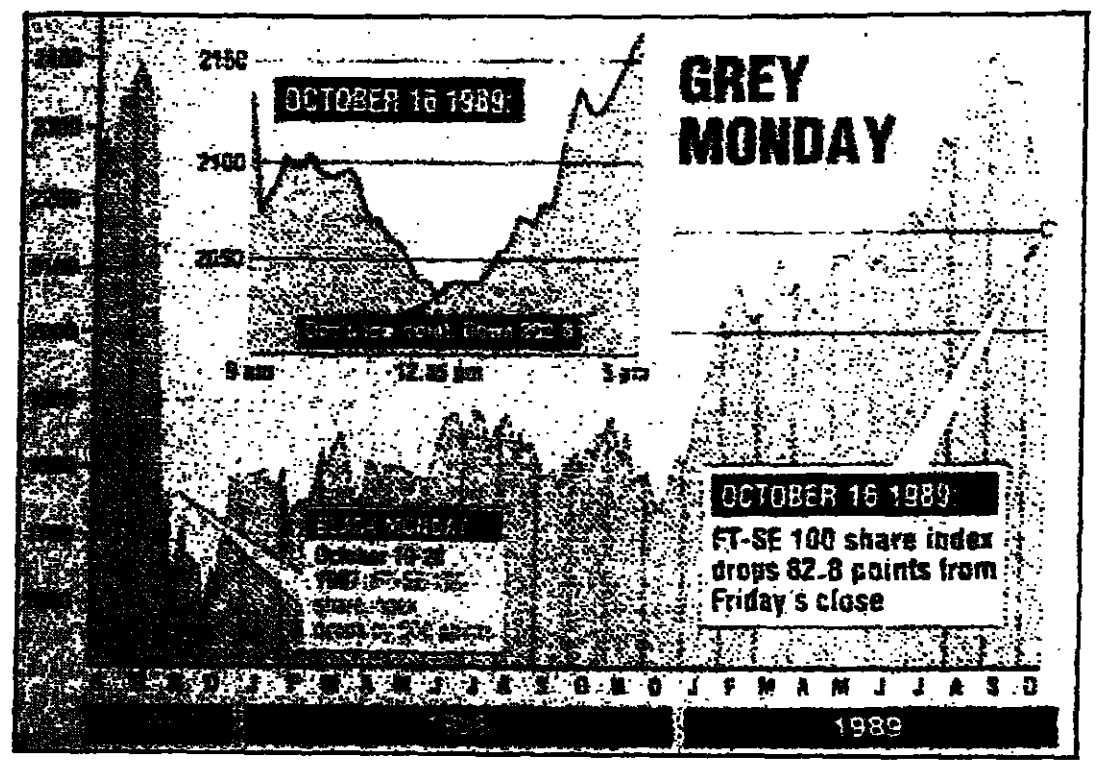
The market recovery sent the dollar sharply higher in early trading in Tokyo. The Bank of Japan said the greenback opened 1.22 yen higher at 141.97 yen.

Asian and European financial markets had taken a beating across the board Monday as investors reacted to Friday's 190-point plunge on Wall Street. But the domino scenario of October 1987 did not repeat itself as authorities moved to restrict damage and investors took heart from the tentative US recovery.

Mexico's stock exchange, for example, in October 1987 registered some of the highest losses in the world as a percentage of total share value. In a hectic opening 45 minutes Monday it lost 2,583 points or just 0.58 per cent of value — losses a bourse official called "very insignificant."

The Tel Aviv stock market, which was one of the first to drop following the Wall Street plunge last week, was one of the first to rally Monday, marking a gain of 1.5 per cent.

Although the Tel Aviv market is limited to local stocks, it reacted to Friday's 190.58-point plunge on the New York Stock Exchange by dropping 6.9 points.



Graph showing the ups and downs of the London FT-SE 100 shares index from the crash of October 1987 to Monday's 82-point fall. The graph also shows FT-SE share movements through the day, Oct 16. (Reuters wirephoto)

Dollar edges down

Gold prices mixed

LONDON, Oct 17, (AP): The dollar fell today against most major currencies in European trading after the release of disappointing US trade figures.

Gold prices were mixed in sluggish trading.

Dealers said the dollar traded in a narrow range before dropping on news that the US trade deficit widened unexpectedly in August to \$10.77 billion. Traders had expected a deficit around \$9.5 billion.

Dealers said the dollar perked up after the release of slightly better-than-expected US industrial production and capacity utilisation figures.

"It shows that even a bad figure can't depress the market, for there is enough interest in buying the dollar when it's cheap," said one dealer at a US bank in Frankfurt.

Dealers said it was difficult to predict the dollar's movements over the rest of the week, because the market is still nervous about volatility in US share prices.

In Tokyo, the dollar rose 1.50 Japanese yen to a closing 142.25 yen from 140.75 yen at Monday's close. Later, in London, it edged up further to 142.35 yen.

In London, the British pound rose to \$1.5835 from \$1.5820 late Monday.

Other late dollar rates in Europe, compared with late Monday:

- 1.8520 West German marks, down from 1.8650
- 1.6227 Swiss francs, down from 1.6345
- 6.2960 French francs, down from 6.3365
- 2.0867 Dutch guilders, up from 2.0805
- 1.3650 Italian lire, down from 1.3720
- 1.1755 Canadian dollars, down from 1.1765

Gold bullion rose in London to a late bid price of \$367.75 a troy ounce, up from \$366.50 bid late Monday.

In Zurich, the metal fell to a closing bid of \$366.90 from \$367 bid late Monday.

Earlier, in Hong Kong, gold fell \$0.42 to close at a bid of \$366.66.

Silver bullion rose in London to a late bid price of \$5.12 a troy ounce from \$5.11 bid late Monday.

In London, share prices fell back after an early strong rally on London's international stock exchange today, as news of a higher-than-expected US trade deficit knocked the market down.

The Financial Times stock exchange 100-share index reached 2139.7 points at 4 pm, down 23.7 points.

Air-India's new symbol

New corporate identity

AIR-India, which of late has shown marked improvement in performance, has selected for its new corporate identity — "The Sun," a symbol of enduring quality, continuity and relevance.

The new identity was presented to public view in Bombay on October 15, 1989 with a dramatic airshow and fly-past as the first Boeing 747, the Emperor Rajendra Chola, splashed in its new livery flew low over the seafront of Bombay, escorted by Air Force jets.

The Sun, one of the most elemental and powerful symbols in the world, — a celestial body used as an aid to navigation since times immemorial, lends itself appropriately as Air-India's new symbol. Rendered as a symmetrical oval in Air-India's new identity, its 24 rays symbolize the 24 hours in a day. The gold rays and enclosing gold ring are given added brilliance by a saffron yellow outline, — a design which combines the Indian heritage with an international look.

The "Sun," prominently positioned in metallic gold on the aircraft against a deep red background, is a design which extends from the top of the tail and drapes over a portion of the fuselage, will be the highlight of the newly-designed livery of India's national carrier, as it looks confidently towards a new and exciting future, built on solid foundations of the past.

The red and white colours, synonymous with Air-India since the airline's inception, have been retained, although the shade of red has been deepened and enriched. Teamed with an all white fuselage, and tail with distinctive colours of red and gold, Air-India's new livery boasts a touch of regal splendour, tempered with simplicity and elegance.

The re-designed logo "Air India" in Hindi, Devanagari and English will be displayed on the aircraft in a new custom lettering style. This contemporary Air-India logo type which will be displayed on Air-India's fleet, in red with a metallic gold shadow, reaffirms the airline's commitment to an era of dynamic change and consolidation.

As Air-India proudly presents its "New Look," the "Sun," together with the ash and new colours of red and gold, will be the dominant graphic image used to project its new identity as a contemporary forward-looking airline, blending the grace of the East with the pace of the West — giving to its passengers throughout its far-flung network, the best of both worlds.



Air of crisis receding

Markets can lose touch of reality

LONDON, Oct 17, (Reuters): To the relief of investors, history did not repeat itself. Stock traders, told to keep calm, have generally done so. Monetary authorities have helped avert a repeat of the Black Monday collapse two years ago.

Trading remains highly volatile from Wall Street to London but so far the crash of 1987 has not happened.

The turmoil on markets has, however, raised one fundamental question: are stock markets, once viewed as the barometer of the global economy, becoming increasingly divorced from the real world as computerised trading takes over?

In an age where technology is revolutionising dealing and competition has tempted some banks into increasingly risky financial deals, some economists say stock markets are taking on a life of their own and can lose touch of reality.

"Markets have been given powerful few toys," said Dr William Kennedy, lecturer in economic history at the London School of Economics.

"It's like a teen-age boy being given a sports car for his 18th birthday — it takes time to use it responsibly and at the moment we could do with a bit less hot-rod-riding."

It would be too much to say calm returned to markets today as the fallout from last Friday's seven per cent tumble on Wall Street continued to reverberate across the world.

But central bankers were quietly satisfied their crisis management tactics appeared to be working.

Wall Street, having recovered nearly half Friday's losses on Monday, gave up fresh ground today. But the air of crisis was receding and in Europe most exchanges scored solid gains.

Economists said major industrial nations, taking a lead from US Federal Reserve board chairman Alan Greenspan, appeared to have hit on the right mix of talk and policy action to contain the damage of Friday's selloff on Wall Street.

Drawing on the lessons of Black Monday in 1987, when authorities were slower to put together a crisis plan, central banks and finance ministers relied on a four-point strategy:

- Traders were told, through a mixture of public statements, press leaks and cajoling, not to panic.
- Markets were given to understand there would be no shortage of cash if the going got rough. Short-term US interest rates have been nudged lower by the Federal Reserve.
- Supervision of trading houses and banks was stepped up.
- "Circuit breakers" built into US trading to stop sell orders triggering a deluge of follow-up sales by computer seemed to pass their first serious test. Not all computer systems stood up world-wide to the volume and more work will be needed.

Kennedy argues that stock exchanges — once viewed as the most efficient form of market — are dividing into two categories despite deregulation and globalisation brought about by the revolution in telecommunications and screen trading.

But today most shorter dates were bid 1/4 point higher at 8-3/4 1/4 due to a shortage of liquidity. A good deal of trade was reported in several periods at 8-3/8.

Overnight was offered at 8-1/2 but banks asked the Central Bank to purchase treasury bills.

In the fixed dates, one to three months were bid 1/8 point higher at 8-1/2 3/8, while six months to one year were offered at 8-3/8 with no bids. Trading was reported in one month at 8-3/8.

US to give more aid to Jordan

AMMAN, Oct 17, (Reuters): Crown Prince Hassan said today the United States would boost its aid to Jordan in fiscal 1990 to at least \$210 million from 160.75 million this year.

The extra American aid will help cover a financing gap already reduced by this year's rescheduling agreements with Jordan's bilateral and commercial creditors.

Prince Hassan told reporters that Washington had agreed to provide \$67 million in technical assistance and food programmes, including a \$5 million grant for food aid.

Amman will get \$15 million in housing guarantee programmes and loans spread over 30 years, \$78 million under the general sales management (GSM) programme, \$48 million in military credits and \$2 million in grants for military education and training schemes.

The prince, acting as request for King Hussein who is on a private visit to Britain, said the United States was expected to provide an additional \$27 million, but did not elaborate.

He expected Washington to give Jordan a total of \$257 million in assistance and grants in fiscal 1991.

Prince Hassan met US President George Bush, Secretary of State James Baker and senior officials of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington last month.

Jordan agreed economic reforms with the IMF in April and has begun rescheduling its debt of up to \$8 billion.

"The IMF has considered Jordan as a model of salutary change, not because we implemented their policies but because we were aware of our problems some time before they happened," the prince said.

Light portable computer

More orders

NEW YORK, Oct 17, (AP): Compaq Computer Corp. on Monday displayed a pair of long-expected 6-pound (2.7-kilogram) "notebook" computers that have full personal computer features but fit on top of a regular sheet of paper.

The Compaq Lite and Lite-286 do not have batteries or screens as good as the ones in the new portable Macintosh from Apple Computer Inc., but are much smaller and lighter than Apple's entries.

"We believe we're going to kind of define this marketplace," said Rod Canham, Compaq's president and chief executive.

The Compaq machines have more power than other "notebook" computers from NEC Corp. and Zenith Data Systems Inc., which are more direct competitors than Apple's they use the same software.

The computers measure 2 inches (5 centimetres) high by 8 1/2 inches (21.6 centimetres) by 11 inches (28 centimetres). They have more than 3 1/2 hours of battery life. They range in price from \$2,399 to 4,999.

Canham said in an interview that orders from dealers had been strong.

KD deposits

KUWAIT, Oct 17, (Reuters): Kuwaiti dinar deposit rates were generally steady today, with active trade in the shorter periods, dealers said.

On Monday, deposits in all periods had been quoted at a uniform 8-1/2 1/4 per cent.

But today most shorter dates were bid 1/4 point higher at 8-3/4 1/4 due to a shortage of liquidity. A good deal of trade was reported in several periods at 8-3/8.

Overnight was offered at 8-1/2 but banks asked the Central Bank to purchase treasury bills.

In the fixed dates, one to three months were bid 1/8 point higher at 8-1/2 3/8, while six months to one year were offered at 8-3/8 with no bids. Trading was reported in one month at 8-3/8.

UAE to use new technique this year

Horizontal wells prove their worth

By Sonny Abraham Arab Times Staff

HORIZONTAL wells could turn out to be one of the most important technological developments of the 1980s for the world oil industry, according to a leading petroleum expert.

Mousa Issam Mustafa of Opec says that what was once considered an exotic way of drilling now appears to be a significant production technique.

According to him, between 1980 and 1984, very few horizontal wells were drilled — only one or two per year. In 1985, however, more than a hundred wells were drilled worldwide using this technique and the expectations were that a similar number would be drilled this year.

Mousa feels that horizontal wells have proved their capability to improve production and are leading to reduced costs. Drilling horizontally, as against vertical drilling, is not an end in itself and the main objective is to increase production, the recovery factor and the ultimate recovery, he stressed.

Mousa said the many areas and conditions where horizontal drilling can be applied include the reservoirs and fields discovered in recent years. It can be used in vertically fractured reservoirs, where horizontal wells cross and connect the fractures.

The technique is also useful in thin reservoirs, which need many wells to sustain the production rate. It can also be applied in offshore areas, where horizontally drilled wells help protect the environment by reducing the need for a large number of wells and big production platforms, he said.

Mousa explained that horizontal drilling had three phases: first, vertical drilling takes place till the kick-off point. Then, the deviated drilling begins and it reaches about 70 degrees from the vertical. Finally, the horizontal drilling extends the hole into the reservoir.

According to him the best known recent application of horizontal drilling was that undertaken by Elf Aquitaine of France in co-operation with Agip of Italy at Rospo Mare, where six horizontal wells have been drilled.

The cost of drilling was about 2.3 times the cost of drilling vertical wells, but the productivity increased by 20 times, he said.

Horizontal drilling is yet to be used in the Arab world, but the UAE has plans to begin using this technique this year, he said. Thanks to their rich reserves of oil, these countries do not have it at the top of their priority and are concentrating instead on deep drilling for gas, he pointed out.

Mousa listed Brazil, the United States, Canada, Mexico and India among the countries using this technology, which is still new and needs to be developed.

The advantages of horizontal drilling in offshore areas can be judged from the fact that a 16-slot platform could be replaced by a four-slot one.

The main idea behind the technique is to drill to where the oil is instead of letting the oil flow through the formation to a vertical well. In vertically fractured formations, a vertical well may miss crossing the fracture, while a horizontal well will cross many fractures.

Horizontal wells have also enabled the industry to gain a better understanding of the heterogeneity of a reservoir.

Lifetime income plan

A special offer from Alico

THE American Life Insurance Company (Alico), one of the largest insurance companies in the world, is launching a Special Offer on its unique scheme "The Lifetime Income Plan" through a full page advertisement in the Arab Times, appearing on the back page of tomorrow's issue.

Alico's Lifetime Income Plan offers three-way accident protection against Accidental Loss of Life, Permanent Partial and Permanent Total Disabilities. In case of Accidental Loss of Life of the Insured, the beneficiary will receive the fixed monthly income (chosen by the Insured) up to US\$3,000 for his or her lifetime. However, these payments will be limited to 20 years in case the beneficiary's age is below 18 years at the time of death of the Insured.

In case of Accidental Permanent Partial or Permanent Total Disabilities, the Insured himself will receive the fixed monthly income (or part of it according to the disability schedule) for his or her lifetime.

There is a minimum guaranteed period of 20 years of payments in any case regardless of whether the beneficiary/insured is alive to receive them.

If, for example, the beneficiary dies after receiving payments for 12 years only, then Alico will continue to make the monthly payments for further 8 years period to the estate of the beneficiary.

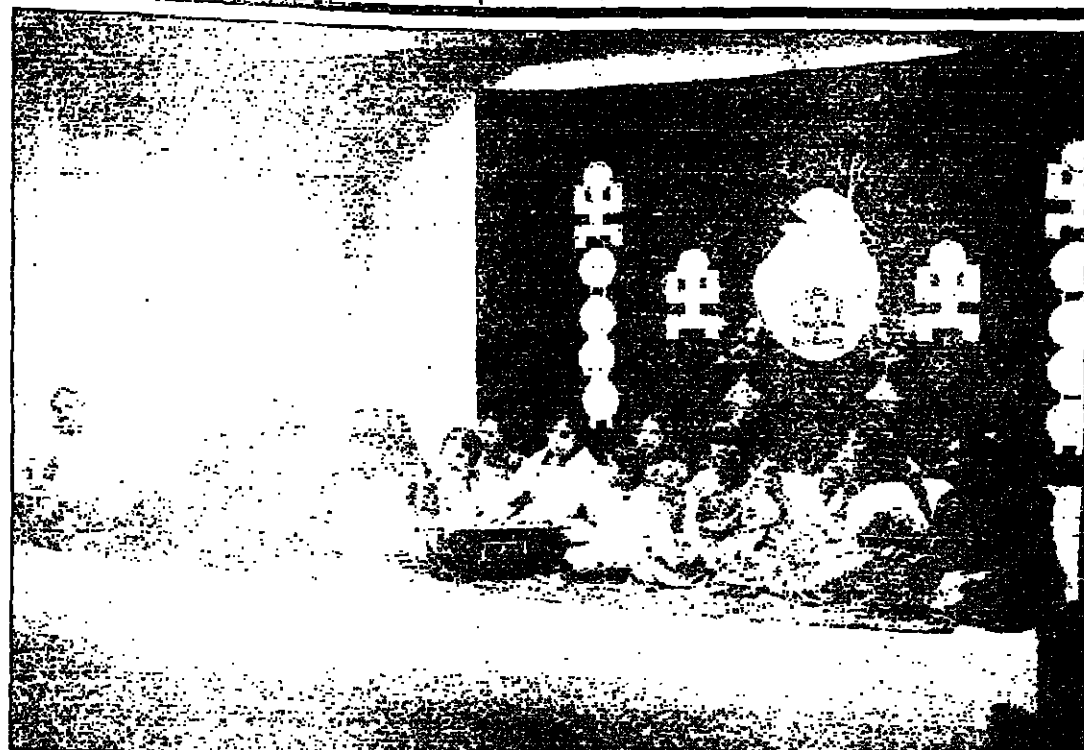
These are the special features of this unique accident annuity product, as detailed by the company's Personal Accident Regional Co-ordinator, Tony C. Awad, who is currently visiting Kuwait to launch this special offer campaign along with Rashed Manna, the manager of the company's operation in Kuwait.

This plan is available for a limited time, up to October 31, 1989, on a special offer basis whereby the occupational classification is waived for all applicants and the premium is unified regardless of job hazard or age.

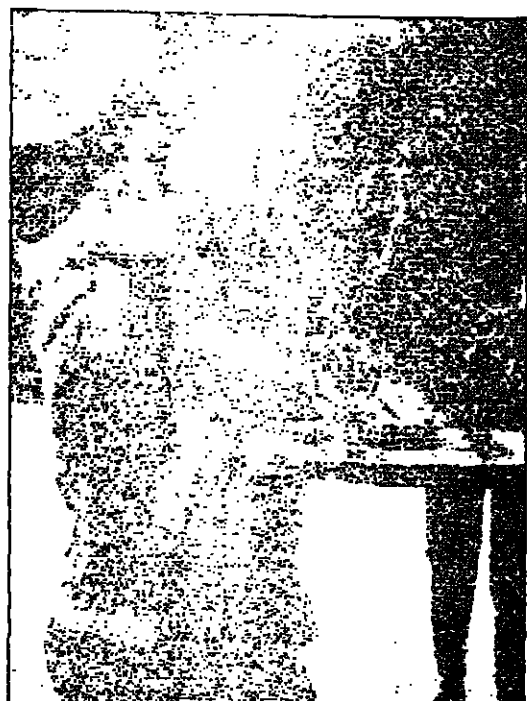
The plan is available also on semi-annual and annual payment modes, as well as on five year Single Premium basis whereby the applicant can save 30 per cent of the actual premium and does not have to worry about renewing the policy for five years.

The Lifetime Income Plan provides financial security for the Insured and his family in case of an unexpected tragic loss through its guaranteed income for life.

Alico, based in Wilmington, Delaware, USA, has over \$60 billion of life insurance in force. It is a member company of the American International Group which does business in about 130 countries and jurisdictions.



Song recital.



A dancer presents a folk number.

Bijoya Sammelani

THE Bengali Cultural Society last week celebrated Bijoya Sammelani at the Mousetrap Theatre. Due to the Nehru Centenary Year, children were encouraged to take an active part in the annual festivities. They planned and presented the cultural show, featuring songs, dances and a sketch entitled "Strain of Fame". More than 25 children took part in the show.

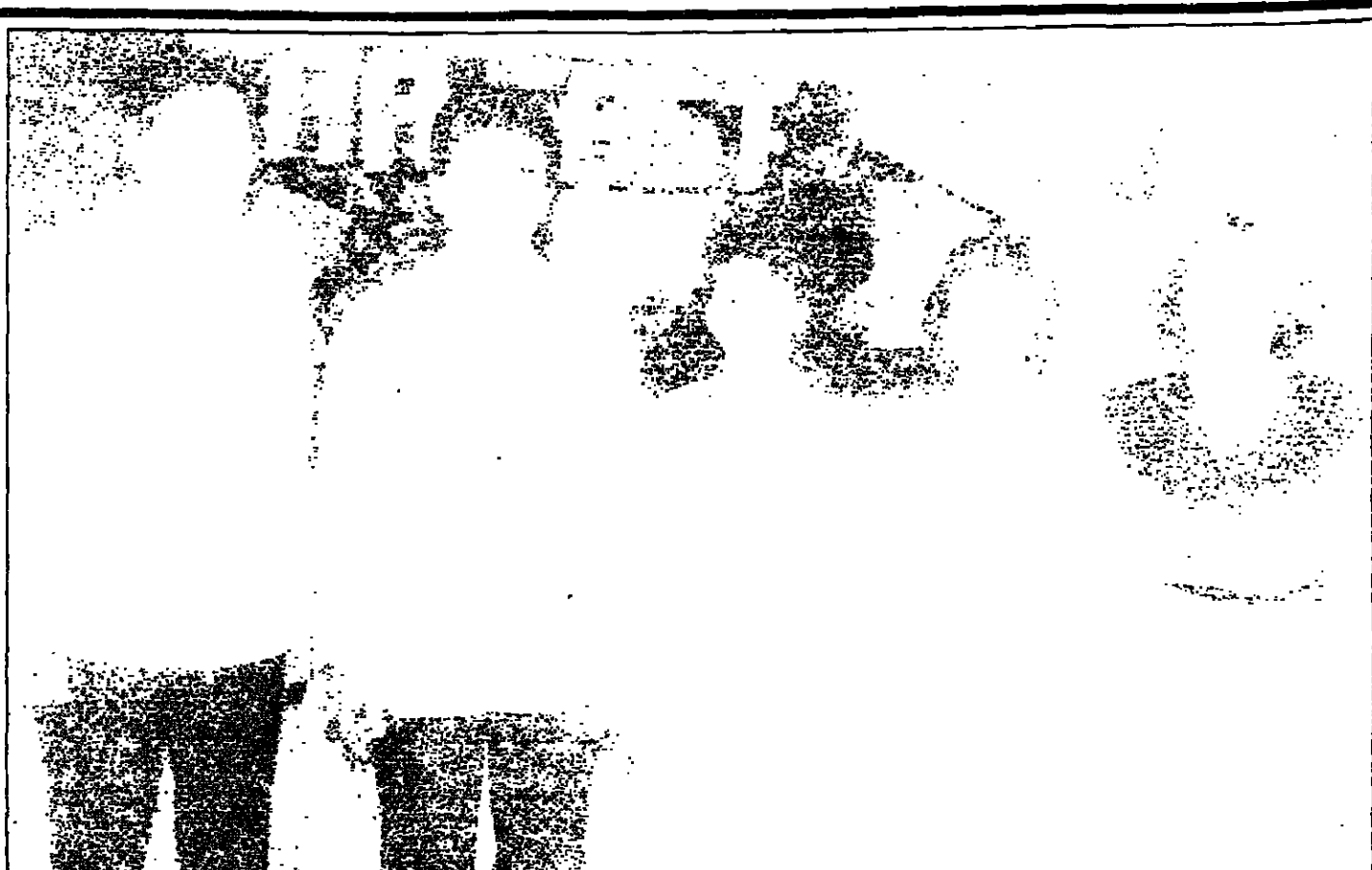
CINEMA

Al Andalus
Arabic film
Sahniya
Hall booked
Al Hamra
Devil's Three
Drive-In
Arabic film
Al Firdous
Main Tera Dushman
Fahad Open
Zara Si Zindagi
Fahad
Arabic film
Al Jahra
Iron Master
Granada
Arabic film
Salaikhat
Project A
Jeeb
Stake Out
Ahmadi Drive-In
Arabic film

PRAYERS

Fajr 4.32 am
Zohr 11.33
Asr 2.49 pm
Maghreb 5.15
Isha 6.32

All entries for the What's On column can be sent by telex (22332) to Events Section or hand delivered daily, except Thursdays, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwaikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.



(L-R) Kapilku president Manny Inerto, Eli Antolin, Marivic Sandiego, Consul-General Olivia Palala and vice-president Sarah Macarimbang

Barong Tagalog models

THE Association of Filipinos in Kuwait (Kapilku) celebrated the end of their tailoring course by a special class graduation last Friday at the Far East Restaurant.

Marivic Sandiego, a nurse, won the ladies' prize and Eli Antolin, who wore the Barong Tagalog, won the males' prize. The talent scout was Melba.

A delightful speech was made by the guest of honour, Olivia Palala, charge d'affaires and consul general.

The highlight of the evening was the nomination of the "number one" male and female models for the Barong Tagalog, that is the Filipino national dress.

The president of Kapilku, Manny Inerto

brought the successful graduation to an end by thanking all the participants, especially the instructors, Bayani Trinidad and Eli Antolin, who rendered their services free to all the association's members. He also stressed gratitude towards the sponsor, Far East Restaurant, who allowed the project to be a success.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

MORNING
9.30 Opening and Holy Quran
9.40 Sabah Al Kher news and variety
10.00 Around the world: cartoon serial
10.15 Magazine D'Actualite
10.30 Al Ghaba: Arabic serial (Part 3)
11.30 Sabah Al Kher news and variety
12.00 Circus: variety

programme
12.30 News summary
12.35 Holy Quran and Closedown
EVENING
4.00 Opening and Holy Quran
4.15 World Today via Satellite
4.45 Al Forsan Al Thalatha: cartoon serial (Part 19)
5.15 Football lessons: sports programme
5.45 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements
6.00 Al Tareeq Illa Al Qods:

historical serial (Part 17)
7.00 Housing and citizens: local programme
7.45 Television network: local programme, prepared and presented by Abdul Rahman Al Najjar
8.30 Good Evening — bringing local news
9.00 Arabic news
9.45 Ahlan Ya Jeddo Al Aziz: Arabic serial (final part) Ahlam Mohammed, Mohammed Awwad, Jassem Al Sherida

1.15 News summary
1.20 World Today via Satellite
1.50 Holy Quran and Closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Opening announcement & Holy Quran
6.10 Voltron: a cartoon series for children
6.30 Danger Bay: "The Birdman"
7.00 On the Wings of Wind.

"Tahiti"
8.00 News in English
8.25: Peace and Friendship, a special sport programme about the Peace and Friendship Championship which will start here on the 30th of this month.
9.30 Wild Life on One. "Rockies & Rollers"
10.00 Cine Club. Presented by Farouk Abdulaziz. "Out of Africa."
12.00 News in brief
12.30 Magazine D'Actualite

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait Dubai Pharmacy Souk Wajef Iben Seena Pharmacy Mubarak Al Kabir St. Hawalli and Nagra Zainah Pharmacy	Nugra, Iben Khaldoun St. Sahniya Sahara Pharmacy Salem Al Mubarak St. Fahad Wafa Pharmacy	Dabbous St. Farwaniya Yasmin Pharmacy Main St. Jahra Al Khaled Pharmacy Opp. Co-op society
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WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Islamic Art
A SIX week - 12 lecture course on Islamic Art will be given in English at the Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah on Sunday and Tuesday evenings from 10.00 - 12.00 noon. October 29 through December 5, 1989.
An eight week - eight lecture course on Islamic Art will be given in Arabic at the Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah on Monday afternoons from 4.00 - 6.00 pm from October 30 through December 19, 1989.
To register for either of these courses please sign up at the Dar Al Athar during museum hours 8.30 am - 12.30 pm.

SOCIAL

Navell Youth Centre
NOV 16: A musical get-together with live music from "Stepping Stones and Top Ranks" having lots more amusements, surprises awaiting at Le Mirage ballroom.
Ramada Al Salam Hotel. Contact: Mr Alex - 242634, Mr Marian - 2416425
Star Nite
DEC 21: Star Nite Stepping Stones have stepped in with Perfect Strangers it's going to be a nite to celebrate Yuletide. Fun fare for children and variety programme for others starting from 5.30 pm and goes on from 9 pm until sumptuous buffet mid-night. A galore of prizes with Hamper lucky draws under 555 sponsorship invitations with Shop No. 34 ex New Super Market and contact Tel: 533940, 2413706 Res.
Colva Nite
OCT 19: Annual Colva Nite at New Ballroom of Ramada Al Salam Hotel. Top Ranks in attendance. For details contact Tel: 2413884/2434776/56291-41-4310913 after 5 pm.

British Council
Woody Woodpecker and His Friends. Wednesday, Oct. 18 at 6.00 pm; Thursday, Oct. 19 at 10.30 pm. Meet the fast-talking Woody Woodpecker and his friends: Buzz Buzzard, Chilly Willy, Walkie Watusi and Andy Panda. Join them in their full-filled adventures and have a great time!
Free admission but please book seats by calling: 2515512, 2533204 and 2533227.

DEEP DAWALI

OCT 19, at 7.00 pm: Indian Arts Circle, Funatics. Organised by Salkaar, a musical evening with dances, songs and a brief comedy drama, to celebrate the festival of lights — Deepawali. For invitation cards, contact: Rajpal Tyagi, 5623545; Pushpender Sharma, 5620810.

Carnatic Music

"Carnatic Music by Shri Maharajapuram Santhanam: The Music Performance will be held on 17th October 1989 at Indian Embassy Hall auditorium at 7.30 pm. For collecting your entry passes, please contact: 4898891, 5627718, 5631230, 5612114, 3920820, 3718353."

Jazz Night

OCT 18: Jazz Night, featuring June Woolston (vocals), at Messilah Beach Hotel, Al Amal, at 8 pm. Also features Highspirits with Jack (tenor, sax). For further details call 5640981.

Daniella BBQ

OCT 19: 7 pm. Daniella starts social season with BBQ Evening at the Gazelle Club. For reservations please call Karen-Marie — 3715146; or Winnie — 5733382 before Oct 17.

IAC Reception

THE Indian Arts Circle will host a reception to welcome the new Indian Ambassador, Arun Budhiraja and his wife on Oct 21 at 7.30 pm. All IAC members are requested to contact the manager for invitation cards.

Kuwait Kannada Koota

NOV 3, 5 pm: As part of the Nehru Centenary and Karnataka Rajyotsava, Day Celebrations, the Koota has organised a variety entertainment programme followed by dinner at the Sharq Co-op Auditorium. For entry passes contact 5631922/5650264/574-5483/3714089.

People's Trust Club

DEC 29: People's Trust Club welcomes you to a day of your life at Ramada Al Salam (Marriott) Hotel. New Ballroom from 10.30 am onwards. Nimble feet, hungry palate, perfect blend of music and style. A get-together with buffet. Featuring Stepping Stones, Top Ranks, Perfect Strangers. There will be novel- ties and surprises galore. Contact Columbus on 4348218.

Condolence meeting

A condolence meeting will be held on Oct 19, Thursday at 6.00 pm in the premises of Bangladesh embassy in Kuwait, by the Shatadal cultural group for the late famous singer Hemanta Mukherjee and the distinguished litterateur Dr Abu Hena Mustafa Kamal. A cultural function will follow the programme. All are cordially invited.

Flassik's Halloween

THE Filipino Ladies Association in Kuwait (Flassik) celebrates the finest weather in Kuwait and the magical aura Halloween night with a costume party at the Meridian Hotel's Al Jahra Ballroom on Tuesday, October 31, 1989. Flassik friends and supporters should look forward to an enjoyable evening as once again Flassik enjoins the Filipino community and their friends to share some of their blessings to the distressed Filipino workers in Kuwait.

The proceeds of Halloween night will be used to fund the vital welfare project of Flassik which has relentlessly given assistance to the unfortunate Filipino workers here.

Guests are encouraged to wear their costumes to the affair to add an aura of mystery to the evening. Aside from a sumptuous dinner and a show featuring a bevy of talents from Flassik friends, a contest among the guests will offer trophies and other valuable prizes to the spookiest costume, the most original costume and most colourful. A special contest will also judge Michael Jackson's look-alike in the best-selling movie — "Thriller". Flassik president Grace Fe N. Covarrubias and the Flassik Executive Board promises a very entertaining evening for all Flassik supporters. Tickets are available at KD 5 in various outlets: Bobby's gift shop, Ambassador Store, Kabayan Restaurant, Mabuhay Restaurant, Far East Restaurant, Good Hand Restaurant and Durani International Exchange.

For more details please contact the event chairperson Flassik Pro Rose Formantes, Vesp Chary Nepomuceno Tel: 5624509, Marilyn Inductivo Tel: 3940600 ext. 4521 and 2230; RC Ruiz, Tel. 4819920 or 4849400 ext. 298, Cely Cayaba, Tel. 3940600 ext. 4118, Evelyn Dumbo Tel. 5312700 ext. 4521 and 2269, Malou Jadeza,

4892714, Eva Sabay Tel. 4572549.

Breeze 88

Tivim Centre's Breeze 88 is going to hit the floors of Ramada Al Salam Hotel's new ballroom on 26.10.89 at a social evening organised in commemoration of village festival. Top Rank and Stepping Stones will provide scintillating music. Highlights include Made For Each Other Contest, a Ball Room Competition and a lot of surprises. For further information please contact Casimiro or Mario on Tel. No. 2441860/67, after 3.30 pm.

Palestinian exhibition

The General Union of Palestinian Women will hold the 13th general exhibition in the Special Hall, International Fair Ground, on Tuesday, Oct. 24, 6-9 pm. The exhibition will also be open on Oct 25 (10 am to 1 pm; 4.30 to 8.30 pm); and Oct 26 (10 am to 1 pm; 3 to 8 pm). All are welcome.

British Council

Storytelling session: Oct 26. The British Council will hold a story-telling session on Thursday at 10.30 am. Children of all nationalities, aged 3 to 7, are invited to enjoy the magic of books.

The Education Information Office will be open on Oct 21 and 22 will give detailed information about training in Britain in hotel and catering; hair-dressing, secretarial studies, beauty therapy and other courses.

Sultan Gallery

A COLLECTION of abstract art by Saudi Arabian artist Faisal Samra is on show at the Sultan Gallery, Samra, who experiments with space and form, is exhibiting for the second time in Kuwait. His first exhibition was in 1987. The show is open Saturday to Thursday from 10 am to 1 pm and 5 to 8 pm, until Nov 15.

Ladies International League

THE purpose of LIL is to offer women of all nationalities an organisation in which they can enjoy events and activities and, at the same time, meet women of many nationalities and, in that way, gain an insight to the people and culture of other countries.

As our world becomes smaller each day with the ever increasing speed of travel, who knows when you may be in a foreign country new to yourself. Hopefully, as a member of

LIL, you will have met someone from that country and know a little of its people and their culture.

Accept the challenge to open yourself up to the new friendships and a new year in Kuwait by joining LIL. Attend the informal and fun monthly meetings and join in the social events and activities.

Upcoming events: Newcomers meeting: October 30 1989 Surra. For further information please phone Neera, 3914503 or Dianne, 5335598.

Bazaar: November 2 1989 (Kuwait International Hotel) Safat Room.

1st 'Big' meeting: November 6, 1989 (Kuwait Regency Palace) Al-Bida' Room.

Watch the Arab Times for more information on LIL.

Ladies International League Bazaar: to be held Thursday, Nov 2 at Kuwait International Hotel, Safat Room, from 10 am to 6 pm. Come and buy handicrafts from all over the world. Also, tents and Al Assaf Gifts (SAS Hotel) will be there. Raffle and door prizes.

Narhama

AS a part of the Nehru Centenary year celebrations "Narhama" stages "Anarkali" ballet at IAC hall on Nov. 9. The popular historical story took place in the year 1600 will be staged with the real Mughal Muslim costumes and style. Admission restricted with passes which are available at Tel: 4337608/2425131/3904817/24-61589/5643126.

HOTELS

At the Holiday Inn
THE COFFEE SHOP: A variety of continental and Oriental cuisine to suit everyone's taste for lunch or dinner at KD5.000 per pax and half price for children.

AL ANDALUS: Thursday, Arabian night. Savour the exotic food especially prepared for the night. Our local entertainers provide wonderful music.

FAMILY BRUNCH: Friday, a wholesome day for the children. Bring along your kid and enjoy entertainment from Walt Disney cartoon characters and magic by the great magician. Prizes and surprises awaits each kid. Price KD5.000 for adults and half per kid.

THE SWIMMING POOL: From 8.20 pm have a great

night out by the pool to soothe the summer heat. Barbecue, music, games, prizes and surprises awaits each one. Bring your family & friends to savour our delicious Shazad barbecue at KD5.500 per pax and KD2.750 per child.

Kuwait International

Afternoon Tea: Served at La Patisserie from 3 pm to 6 pm. Offers the finest teas, delicious salmon and cucumber sandwiches, mouth watering pastries and not to forget those delicious scones, strawberry jam and lovely fresh cream. Pianist and harpist in the evenings.

Perrier Promotion: For that lingering taste one can try Perrier Lemon, Perrier Lime, Perrier Lime and fresh kiwi juice, Perrier and apple juice or

a variety of other creations. Served in all the outlets.

Falaka: Daily Chef's Special for lunch and dinner. Special mezzeh buffet on Thursday evenings. Live entertainment during dinner.

La Palma: Presents a culinary trip around the world featuring authentic Chinese, Indian, Mexican, African, Italian, British, German/Austrian, Turkish and Arabic dishes. Theme nights on Saturdays and Tuesdays. Telephone: 2530000/2533000.

Kuwait Plaza Hotel

NEW menus every day at Al Dallah Coffee Shop with variety of Oriental, Arabic and Continental dishes to suit everybody's taste. Enjoy more than thirty different appetizers, mezzah, main course and des-

sert. A lavish buffet for KD2.995 only. Breakfast with a selection of more than 25 dishes to choose from and savour. Eat as much as you can with coffee and tea. It is the breakfast you like most for less 995 only.

MARCO POLO: The Italian Restaurant in the heart of the city, features authentic Italian food with our resident Duo Stan and Alice who play your favourite songs and music.

SPORTS

Gala
Dec 8: Expatriates Club will hold a gala social for children and adults at the Tent, SAS Hotel. Fifty-five attractive hamper prizes and other gifts will be given away.



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Anyone can become a high achiever using mind-bending methods

Pictures in the mind can turn one into a genius

By Kate Saunders

PARENTS can turn their children geniuses by using an amazing technique based on "pictures in the mind," says a top expert.

Tony Buzan claims to have successfully taught his "mind-bending" methods to the royal family, top politicians and businessmen.

Buzan, 47-year-old member of the International Council of Psychologists, said: "Anyone can be a high achiever using my methods. It's a question of learning how to use your brain properly."

His method includes learning to have a dazzling memory. He does this "by association." He explained: "To remember the number two, think of a swan — because the shape of its curved neck resembles this number. Two oranges on your shopping list would be remembered by a mind picture of a swan and an orange."

And students shouldn't agonize over long hours of swotting, Buzan says short, intense bursts of concentration are far more effective.

Then he advises pupils to draw "mind maps." These are personal diagrams with "map" the salient points that have to be learned.

Buzan, who is setting up mind centres all over the world, even makes sure students are physically fit. He explains: "Being in good physical condition helps concentration. A healthy body is a healthy mind."

He went on: "Any kid who wants to do well at university can do so. They just have to be taught how. When I teach children how to use their brains and memories, I use pictures, sound and all the senses."

"I advise the Royal family how to cope with the stresses and strains of their job in the public eye. But their basic problems are the same as those of children. They have been taught the wrong way. Our educational system suffers from what I call 'a forgetting disease'."

"Schools teach people how to remember things simply by reciting them over and over again. But often they soon forget these lessons through boredom."

"I encourage children to use their imaginations. To build memory by conjuring up exciting pictures in their minds."

Buzan, whose books on the mind have sold millions, went on: "We are not taught at school to use that amazing bio-computer, the brain."

"Instead of being encouraged to have a creative wide outlook on life children are taught to compartmentalise. This means they put, say, maths, English and science in isolated pigeon holes."

There should be links in the mind between every subject. For example, the fifteenth century genius Leonardo da Vinci created beautiful paintings and was a brilliant inventor and technician.

"Leonardo was fascinated by all subjects and was clever enough to realise that everything connects to everything else. But he was only using the same brain capacities we all have."

"And, all those years ago, Leonardo was using the same technique I am today...imagination and creativity."

Fair-haired Buzan proved his theories by taking an "average schoolboy" called Edward Hughes under his wing. Today Edward is a high-flyer in business, holding a first-class Cambridge degree in land economics.

Buzan explained: "Before reading my book, use your head and studying my methods of learning."

Edward had been an unexceptional schoolboy. At the age of 15, he gained unimpressive C's and B's in a handful of examinations.

"But Edward desperately wanted to go to top university, Cambridge. And I believe that, if you want something badly enough, it is possible to achieve it."

"Edward's teachers said he could never do it, and completely discouraged him. So he studied my methods of using the brain."

He began to feel more relaxed and motivated. As the teachers still insisted he would not pass the exams to Cambridge, Edward even had to pay the £20 entrance fee himself. But, all the time he declared, "I will get an A."

Buzan, who has presented television and radio programmes on memory and learning, went on: "Edward continued to use mind maps, creative summaries of the key points that need to be remembered. And he studied the technique of writing a decisive essay."

"While Edward was studying, he ran two to three miles a week, got lots of fresh air, and worked out in a gym. He became better physically, which helped his concentration."

When Edward's results came through, his teachers were amazed. He had gained three A's, two distinctions, and was the top student in all his subjects. His dream came true when he was invited to go to Cambridge.

There, Edward allocated two to three hours a day, five days a week, to study.

The once "average" schoolboy, now a top executive with a multi-national company, told me: "During those three hours, I went to a key lecture. I summarised all the relevant information in mind map form."

"When I had an essay to write, I used another system of speed reading, breaks for reflection and a series of mind maps. Writing the essay normally took just 45 minutes. Using this technique, I regularly achieved high marks."

Edward was following the Buzan system of using short bursts of concentration. He believes that long periods of study tempt students into taking breaks for the odd hamburger or TV programme.

The psychologist's method had a brilliant pay-off for Edward. In his final exams, he attained two first-class marks, which were the highest grades in the university for that subject.

He had also played in the university soccer, tennis and squash teams, and had founded the Young Entrepreneurs Society.

Buzan insists that any average pupil at a normal school could do the same as Edward. Just by following his advice.

And Buzan, who lives in Marlow, Buckinghamshire, believes the power of the mind can make a person happier. He explained: "When you use your imagination, life is so much richer. You become much more aware of the beauty around you."

"This is because when you're using your head, you're not just using your IQ. Your senses are an extension of your brain. So, for example, if you're more aware of your taste, you're touching more, and if you can really see, you'll tend to remember more."

"Each sense develops the other and makes it more complete. So, when we teach children how to use their brains and memories, we use pictures, sound, and all the senses."

The result: a genius with a satchel in your home.



A school child with a globe in between study sessions.

Toddlers under studio spotlight

Child modelling booms

PARIS, Oct. 17. (Reuters): Top French model Clio Picot spends much of her career cuddling bunny rabbits, posing with jam smeared over her face and being tossed in the air by square-jawed athletes.

Such are the trials and tribulations of life as a five-year-old mannequin, in hot demand from advertisers impressed by the selling power of her angelic beauty.

"What do you think of her?" asks the assistant at Success modelling agency, one of up to 25 enterprises in Paris catering for children, as she shows Clio's portfolio.

"She's very sweet, isn't she?" Clio is one of a growing number of children, toddlers and even babies being drawn into modelling as the advertising industry registers the magnetic power a child's smile holds over adult consumers.

Pump babies, cradled by bare-chested fathers, are currently a favourite image in television advertising, used to promote products ranging from mineral water to central heating.

On the fashion front, there has been a boom in chic clothes for toddlers. French designers like Trotinette specialise in children's lines, while a rising number of classic labels like Dior and Kenzo have brought out highly-priced infant wear.

All this means modelling work for children — on the catwalks, in advertising catalogues, magazines, newspapers and roadside posters.

Union officials estimate up to 1,200 children in Paris alone are now registered with modelling agencies, with between 2,000-3,000 seeking work in France as a whole.

"Over the last 10 years there has been a dizzying escalation in child publicity," says Francoise Etienne, head of success's child bookings. "In 10 advertisements, at least six or seven now use children."

One of the factors is that children are now important consumers, with enough pocket

money to be worth noticing and advertisers are aiming their products directly at them.

Despite her popularity, Clio's salary is nowhere near an adult model's. For two hours of work she will earn a maximum of 368 francs (\$58).

Her working career is unlikely to be a long one. "There's most demand for kids aged between four and eight. From nine years it tends to tail away and most stop at 10," says Etienne.

And despite all the professional experience gained, she is almost certain not to become an adult model.

"In 20 years in the business I've never seen a single child model who's gone on to do the job as a grown-up."

Children change so much and an attractive child isn't necessarily a beautiful adult," says Etienne.

The current boom in the children's market is highlighting anomalies in France's child labour legislation.

No children under 16 are supposed to work but the government, recognising that the film industry could not survive without them, has authorised a special dispensation allowing them to work under certain conditions.

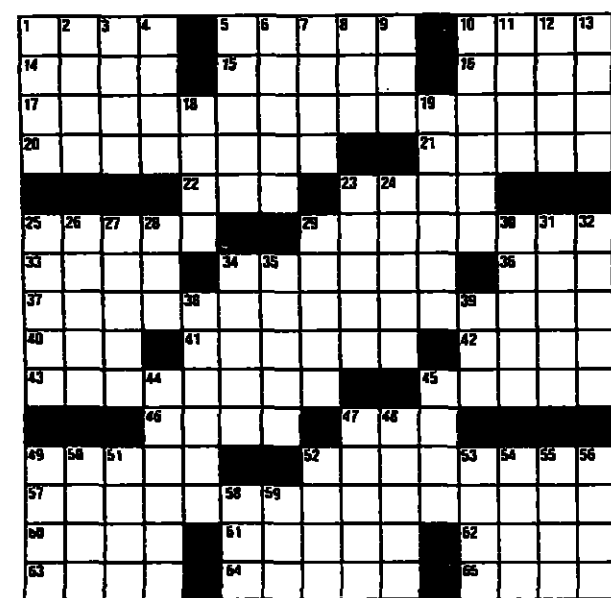
Strict rules aimed at preventing exploitation by greedy or overambitious parents state that children working in cinema and television must have part of their salary paid into a bank account to which they have access only when they come of age.

A government commission decides on contract-by-contract basis how much salary is paid into the child's trust and how much goes to parents. Servane Cherouat, head of the professional models' union, says in most cases children get 90 per cent and the parents 10 per cent.

But no such limits exist in newspaper, catalogue or poster advertising, leaving the agencies free to set their own rules.

"Under French law no child under 16 is allowed work," says Cherouat.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 Oman coin
 - 5 Kind of ray
 - 10 Feel blue
 - 14 Singer-composer from Canada
 - 15 Prince Charming, e.g.
 - 16 Site of Iowa State College
 - 17 Dancers of first rank
 - 20 City residence
 - 21 Practical
 - 22 Words of consent
 - 23 Single
 - 25 Well-known Hollywood family
 - 29 Hedge sparrow
 - 33 Hunt hero
 - 34 Out of the way
 - 36 Actor McKellen
 - 37 Eagles and Otters
 - 40 Five-spot
 - 41 Ecclesiastical wear
 - 42 Chill
 - 43 Namesakes of a Roosevelt
 - 45 "— of Fortune"
 - 46 Eat in style
 - 47 The Grande
 - 49 "Tiny Alice" playwright
 - 52 Surpass in scope
 - 57 Nightclub activity
 - 60 Part of HOMES
 - 61 Spiriting
 - 62 Wings
 - 63 George C. Scott movie: 1981
 - 64 Transport to Staten Island
 - 65 Earl Bigger's middle name
- DOWN**
- 1 Completely absorbed
 - 2 Concerning
 - 3 Related
 - 4 Gold fabric
 - 5 Made fun of
 - 6 Hersey bell town
 - 7 Soften
 - 8 — de tête
 - 9 English country festival
 - 10 — d' hôtel
 - 11 Stadium in Atlanta
 - 12 Loud ringing of bells
 - 13 Being: Lat.
 - 18 Ruler, in Africa
 - 19 —Urundi, Africa
 - 23 Crinkled fabric
 - 24 Cordell and Henry
 - 25 Faux pas
 - 26 Seething
 - 27 Singer Debby
 - 28 Call by the ump
 - 29 Lemons
 - 30 Loyal subject
 - 31 The street, in Paris
 - 32 Photographer Adams
 - 34 Brother of Moses and Miriam
 - 35 Unsteady light
 - 38 Thinner
 - 39 Exclamation of disgust
 - 44 Namesakes of designer Simpson
 - 45 Used, as clothing
 - 47 Less refined
 - 48 Where the Tiber flows
 - 49 Encourage
 - 50 Zhivago's love
 - 51 Radar image on the screen
 - 52 Hebrew measure
 - 53 Part of USNA
 - 54 The lifeline of Egypt
 - 55 Growl
 - 56 Fulda feeder
 - 58 Dolt
 - 59 Cinnabar or galena
- ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:**
- ZEST INLET FAIDS
ALAIR MOIRE OTIG
PERT MOTOR CORA
SMIDGEN SCAUPER
EER TEEMS
EVANESCE LEEWAY
DART ELMS EDILE
ITE ADAPTER DIS
TICAL NEON GENI
SCARES RATLINES
CRASS HAL
STRATUM OUTDOOR
ARID TERNIS IGOR
WAGIE ELITE NEER
SPAS STOOD GELS

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
HANDLED WITH CARE

Both vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH

♠ 10 6 5 4

♥ K 7 3

♦ 10 8 7 6

♣ K 6

WEST

♠ 7 2

♥ A J 9 8 5

♦ A K Q J

♣ 10 9

EAST

♠ 8 3

♥ 6 4

♦ 9 5 3

♣ Q J 5 4 3 2

SOUTH

♠ A K Q J 9

♥ Q 10 2

♦ 4 2

♣ A 8 7

The bidding.

West	North	East	South
1	Pass	Pass	2 ♣
2	Pass	Pass	4 ♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: King of ♣

Only a person with a very stubborn streak would take a finesse which is almost certain to fail. You must search for greener pastures.

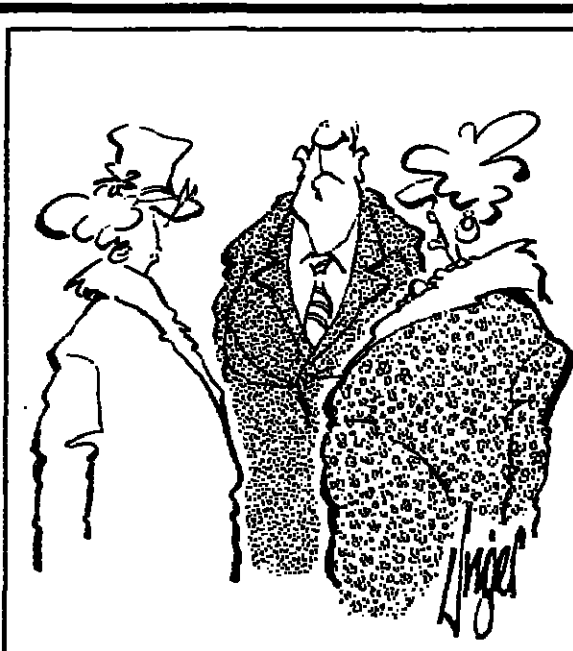
North made a well-judged leap to four spades on minimal values. Since partner's bidding promised a considerably better-than-minimum hand, North deemed that well-placed kings behind the opening bid and the ruffing value in clubs would

almost surely be 'worth enough tricks for game because of the four-card trump support.

The defense attacked with three rounds of diamonds, declarer ruffing the third. Obviously, the problem was to avoid losing two heart tricks. Since East did not take a heart preference, chances of finding the jack of hearts well placed were negligible.

Declarer found a way out of his dilemma. After drawing trumps in two rounds, South crossed to the king of clubs, ruffed dummy's last diamond, cashed the ace of clubs and ruffed a club in dummy. With the minor suits eliminated, declarer led a low heart from the table to the queen in his hand, and West was a dead duck.

The defender took the ace of hearts, but was faced with a choice of losing alternatives. If he happened to have a minor-suit card as an exit, declarer would ruff in one hand while discarding the losing heart from the other. That was not the case, so West had to lead a low heart away from the jack. But it was declarer, not partner, who held the ten. South allowed the heart to ride around to hand, and the game was in the bag.



"The doctor's put him on a vegetarian diet ... like an elephant."

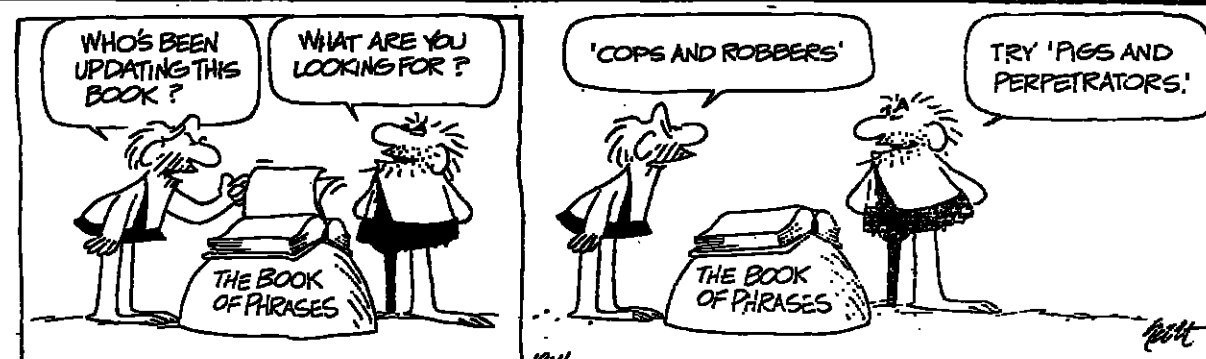
THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 18)

You are trying to do all at once, stop it. You should keep calm particularly when dealing with a nervous person. Keep your head high and your mind open. Be a little more abstinent.



Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

There is no need for you to feel at a disadvantage only if you do will you be. You ought to make a few allowances where a friend of yours is concerned. Do not allow yourself to dwell on the past. Be frugal.



Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

You will tend to become a little too set in your ways and should try to restrain the trend. Something you had thought was not possible is if you make the effort. Do not spend as if you had all the money in the world. Be considerate.



Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

This is going to be one of those days for you so seek not to do anything unusual. No need to be gloomy or despondent. You will tend to make a mountain out of a molehill, try not to. Be forgiving.



Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)

You will have something to be pleased about. You should not neglect doing something that will have to be done sooner or later in any case. Try not to allow too much paper and other odds and ends to accumulate. Be amicable.



Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)

You should pay a little more attention to the state of your finances. You will be better able to persuade others to your point of view. You will have to be a little more concerned about your health. Be moderate.



Libra (Sept 22 - Oct. 22)

You will tend to be rather on the nervous side and should seize hold of every opportunity to relax. Do not try to rush things or to do too many all at once. Do not however neglect your commitments. Be generous.



Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov. 21)

You should not judge entirely by appearances try to look beneath the surface too. You should not lose sight of your objectives. There is no time to waste so do not dither or procrastinate. Be respectful.



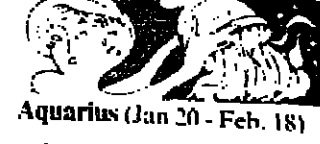
Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

You should beware of permitting your attention to stray. It would be wrong of you to ignore an opportunity to save money. However do not think to save by delaying repairs or maintenance. Be polite.



Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 19

You will have to deal with an unusual problem and should not be too proud to accept help in dealing with it. You must keep your wits very much about you and use your commonsense to the full. Make sure you do not make it easier for burglars. Be tactful.



Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb. 18)

Others are more likely to agree with you only you must not go too far. Your lucky numbers are 2 and 35. Your health also depends on your not picking up bad habits where diet is concerned.



Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)

Make sure you get all the rest you need without becoming too lethargic. You should avoid spending too much time dealing with secondary matters. Let others have their say and listen attentively. Be observant.

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SALWA, House No. 196, Block No. 7. One room with kitchen and tele facilities for a family to share with an Indian family. Bus routes 34, 102. Rent KD50. Tele 5611243. (AT4-49870-3)

CITY center, near the Sheraton. Western-oriented person wanted for room in traditional villa, sharing of all facilities. KD. 105 all inclusive. Tele. 2418017, 2-4 pm or after 8 pm. (AT3-49825-3)

SALMIYA, near Al Rashid Hospital. Accommodation for a bachelor, spinster or couple without children. Tele 5627309, from 2-7 pm. (AT4-49867-3)

SINGLE room in a CAC flat for two Indian bachelors or a couple to share with an Indian family. Tele 2406332. (AT5-49881-3)

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KUWAIT City. One room for bachelors to share with a Goan family. Tele Badsha, 2402867. (AT4-49852-3)

For Rent

ANDALLUS, on the main street. Brand new deluxe villa. 2 floors, large open basement with rooms and open reception hall, CAC. Suitable for an executive. Tele 252122. (AT4-49872-3)

JABRIYA, beside the Indian School, Street 5, Building No. 8. Deluxe 3 bedrooms, hall and saloon, 2 bathrooms, CAC. Tele 2406524/5. (AT4-49859-3)

FOR SALE

Cars

NISSAN Skyline, automatic, 2 litre, dark grey, 57,000 kms, registered Oct '86, lady driver. KD1,800. Tele. 5339746, 5-8pm. (AT5-49878-3)

NISSAN Liberta, 1985, red, 4 door, automatic, AC, 72,000 kms, insured up to Oct 1990, sunroof, in good condition. KD850 or by instalments. Tele 2401908. (AT4-49856-3)

RANGE Rover 1983, four-speed manual, new AC, brown, well maintained. KD1,350. Tele. 3717694, evenings. (AT5-49877-3)

AERO 244 - 1989 jeep with AC, 5 doors, 4 wheel drive, brand new, unused for sale immediately. Tele. Fernando, 4738456, 4746780, 8 am - 5 pm. (AT3-49835-3)

CHEVROLET Blazer 4x4 S10 1988 (Alghanim) automatic, red and grey, 23,000 kms in very good condition. KD4600 on cash. Tele 5716003, 9071712 after 5 pm. (AT4-49861-3)

HONDA Prelude 1983 model, brown, fully automatic, AC, sunroof, one year insurance, in very good condition. KD100 for owner. KD49 monthly 16 months. Tele. 5653552. (AT5-49884-3)

CAPRICE Classic 1979, green, original engine with 85,000 kms. Second owner leaving Kuwait. Highest offer near KD1,200. Tele. 5334527, res. 3295445/1123, off. (AT5-49857-2)

HONDA Accord 1982 in good condition. Car can be inspected at Lord's Restaurant, next to Safeway, Fahadhi, KD500, negotiable. Contact Mr Yakoub Khan personally. (AT5-49868-3)

Computers

BBC-BPC with disk drive, diskettes and manuals in very good condition. Tele Ali 5332179. (AT4-49848-3)

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21 ft 285 HP inboard with cabin/radio/depth and many more KD2,950 negotiable. Tele Adel/Jassem, 4330487 mornings. (AT5-49869-3)

Miscellaneous

KAWASAKI motorcycle, AR125, sports learner, liquid cooled, six speed gearbox, top speed 100 mph, model '86, 5000 kms. KD350. Tele. Mohammed, 2403202, 9 am - 1 pm, 4.30 - 7 pm. (AT4-49863-3)

TV 20 inch, VCP, refrigerator, washing machine, cupboard, bed, cooking range, sofa set, dining set and many other items for sale. Tele Abdul Qudus, 4319266, after 2 pm. (AT4-49854-2)

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VARIOUS items for sale including AC units, furniture, kitchen appliances and curtains. Everything can be bargained for. Tele 4713622 ext 110, 7.30 am-12.30 pm, 4-7pm. (AT5-49871-3)

JABRIYA, 3 bedroom flat with large pool, large garden. Rent KD450. Furniture KD900, available in December. Tele. Klaus, 5332356. (AT5-49863-3)

JABRIYA, 2 bedroom flat with large pool, large private balcony. Rent KD360. Furniture, KD1,000, available in December. Tele. Bernhard, 5332349. (AT5-49868-3)

SALMIYA, behind the UTC, one bedroom semi-furnished CAC flat with complete bedroom set, cooking range, carpet and curtains for sale. Tele. Khan, 5721404 after 4pm. (AT5-49876-3)

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GUITAR and piano lessons available. Tele 5639146 any time (answer phone machine) or after 9 pm. (AT4-49850-3)

QUALIFIED teacher with 15 years experience in teaching Arabic language for Arabs and non-Arabs, available to give tuition either to individuals or a group for all levels. Tele 3903063, 4-10 pm. (AT4-49836-3)

SITUATIONS

Vacant

MAID required for a small family for one month only from Dec. 1, '89 in Jabriya. Tele. 2464636, 7.30am-1.30pm. (AT5-49886-3)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

A new video store, is looking for an honest and reliable employee. Send your C.V. and recent photo to P.O. Box 27152, Safat 13132, Kuwait.

MAID required, Filipino, for a family in Surra. Must speak English. Tele. 5335197, after 3 pm. (AT3-49851-3)

2 housemaids required, Filipino. Must be experienced and have transferable visas. Tele Mrs Fawzi, 5395511. (AT4-49866-3)

MAID/NANNY required, Filipino, for an American family to live-in in Salwa. Must speak English. Good working conditions and salary. References required. Tele. 2465860, ext 301, 2-5pm. (AT5-49879-3)

MAID required to look after children and do housework. To live-in in Bayan. Must speak English and have transferable visa. Tele Dr Banina 5389167, 3-5 pm. (AT4-49873-3)

MAID required for a European couple part-time. Tele. 5333427, 6-8pm only. (AT5-49875-3)

Wanted

A YOUNG fresh graduate engineer in electronics and communications with brilliant background, seeks suitable apprenticeship or employment. Tele 4316388. (AT4-49864-3)

MAID, Sri Lankan, experienced with a transferable residence, seeks job preferably with an English or European family. Husband needs accommodation. Tele D'Soyas, 5624650, 8 am - 6 pm. (AT4-49864-3)

AN EXPERIENCED Indian, commerce graduate knowing typing, shorthand, tele. fax, word processing etc. seeks suitable job. Tele. 4332911, after 2 pm. (AT3-49833-3)

PETS

PERSIAN cats in assorted colours eight weeks old, house trained, very cute and friendly for sale. Also their father (male cat) is available for sale. Tele. 5741154. (AT3-49843-3)

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AN OLD piano and organ. Tele. Mr. Singh, 5753736, 5725848, 9 am - 1 pm & 4.30 - 9 pm. (AT3-Daj-HU-3)

NATIONAL Panasonic video camera with large cassette. Tele 5639146, leave message on answering machine. (AT4-49862-3)

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SPORTS

Phoenix Park racecourse to close

DUBLIN, Oct. 17. (Reuters): Phoenix Park, one of Ireland's top racecourses and home to the world's richest two-year-old race, is to close down because of recurring losses, its millionaire owners announced today.

The 87-year-old racecourse, known in its heyday as Ireland's Ascot, is to be sold to property developers and turned into a housing estate.

The Phoenix has risen twice from the

ashes in the 1980s. It received \$8 million facelift from an international syndicate of racing millionaires in 1983 and the grandstand had to be rebuilt in 1988 after being ravaged by a fire.

But British magnate Robert Sangster and Irish trainer Vincent O'Brien, who rescued the course when the property group developing it collapsed, have decided to close Phoenix Park at the end of

the 1991 season.

They blamed rising costs, the government's refusal to plough betting revenue back into racing and falling attendances — Phoenix Park averages 5,000 on a good day.

Phoenix Park manager Jonathan Irwin, the flamboyant showman who launched the Cartier Million two-year-old race as a major boost to Irish bloodstock sales, bitterly regretted the closure.

He also blamed the government for failing to give racing a slice of the off-course betting levy on bookmakers.

"If the British experience is anything to go by, once there is a direct link between racecourses and betting, the profitability and capital value of racecourses increases dramatically," he said in a statement.

Wind dies during 3rd Kosa race

THE Third Kosa Week race, KW3, was held on Friday. It was scheduled to cover a middle distance of 30 miles and included legs to South Cardinal, West Cardinal and Masts.

As with KW1 and KW2, seven boats began the event which started in front of the Shaab Marina at 9 a.m. Conditions were light; north-westerly winds of 5 knots and flat seas.

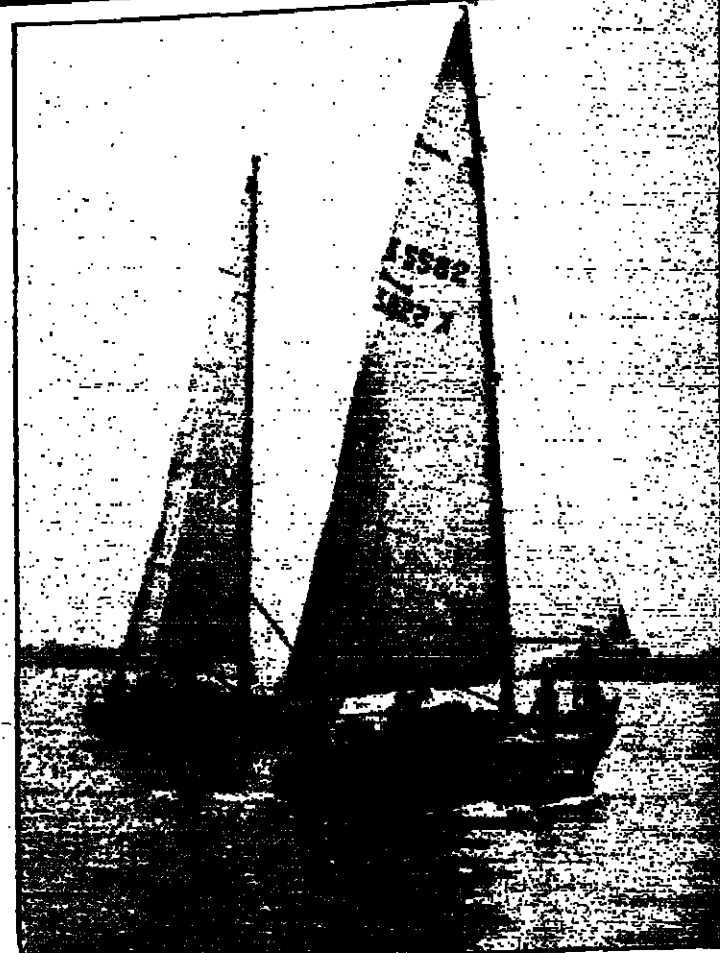
It was an open start with Danat and Gambit crossing down the line after being early on the approach. Red Viking made the best start, crossing upwind before sailing into clear air. Good Kompany's unusual lack of aggression was noted.

Danat set the early pace and hailed Gambit for room to tack in order to avoid an obstruction ahead; shallow water on the inshore tack saw her run aground during the previous day.

The 7 mile beat towards the South Cardinal windward mark (off Kuwait Towers) soon split the fleet between an inshore starboard tack group and a group which elected to tack offshore on port tack. The influence of the ebb tide traversing the yachts motion was proving to be of major significance.

After falling to 3 knots, the breeze lifted and built up to 7 knots which enabled boats to increase their boat speed appreciably. The inshore tack was working well for Gambit as she opened up a big lead on Shammal before she too switched to the same tack.

Danat, Red Viking, Why Not



Gambit (foreground) and Danat during a recent Kosa race.

and Good Kompany continued to beat offshore in an effort to lay the mark. By tacking on windshifts, Danat got herself into a fair position as Shammal and Gambit reached the Kuwait Towers.

After about 4 hours, the breeze began deteriorating badly and tidal effects dominated proceedings; Shammal (which had sneaked past Gambit by charting new low water levels) and Gambit now began to drift away from the mark. In exasperation

they dropped anchor and waited for the inevitable call that signalled the termination of the race.

Returning to the Marina, at least 5 boats were heard to be claiming victory of sorts, each insisting that they had been in the best position.

The Kosa Week Series is now down to three races: KW4, a cause race will be held tomorrow October 19; KW5, a long distance race will be staged the following day.

Sweden name squad for Cup qualifier

STOCKHOLM, Oct. 17. (Reuters): Sweden manager Olle Nordin announced yesterday a squad built around the defensive talents of Liverpool's Glenn Hysen and the scoring appetite of Benfica's Mats Magnusson for a crucial World Cup qualifier against Poland.

Nordin's squad for Sweden's final European Group Two tie, away in Chorzow on Oct. 25, remains unchanged from the one for the tie against Albania earlier this month which put Sweden within reach of their first World Cup finals since 1978.

"I was satisfied with our effort against Albania, so why change a winning team?" Nordin said.

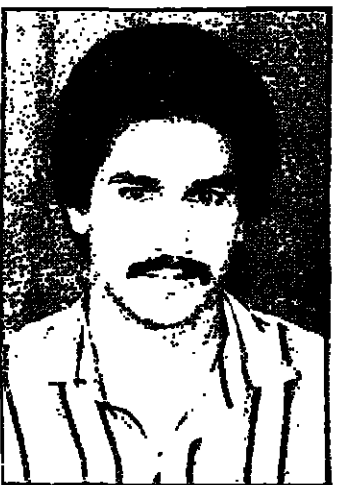
Nordin said the key players in his 18-man squad included defender Hysen, impressive so far in his first season with Liverpool, and playmaker Jonas Thern and striker Magnusson, both of Benfica.

Magnusson scored four times against Poland during the weekend to bring his Portuguese League tally to 11 goals.

Sweden will win Group Two if they beat Poland. A draw would also ensure them a ticket to the finals as one of the best two second-placed teams from groups one, two and four.

"I was impressed by the Polish attack and their fighting spirit against England. But the Poles held to a goalless draw by England) now have nothing to play for, and that should be an advantage for us," Nordin said.

Squad — Sven Andersson, Thomas Ravelli, Glenn Hysen, Peter Larsson, Roger Ljung, Roland Nilsson, Stefan Schwarz, Leif Engqvist, Klas Ingesson, Niclas Larsson, Anders Limpar, Joakim Nilsson, Jonas Thern, Johnny Ekstrand, Mats Gren, Jan Hellstrom, Stefan Lindqvist, Mats Magnusson.



Shakeel: 48 runs

Saleem helps Lions thrash Salmiya XI

LIONS Cricket club beat Salmiya XI by a huge margin of 73 runs in the second round of the New Pak Tournament played at Salmiya ground, earlier this week.

The Salmiya skipper won the toss and invited Lions to bat. This decision paid dividends as in the very first over Naval's accurate bowling knocked out Lions skipper's stumps. Naval and Suhail continued their fine bowling. In 9 overs Lions slumped to 32 for six.

Shakeel and James then played with great responsibility and lifted LCC out of trouble. The two were associated in an unbeaten seventh wicket stand of 136 runs with James 79 not out and Shakeel 48 not out.

James slammed seven fours and a huge six while Shakeel hit five boundaries in Lions' healthy score of 168 runs. Naval was the most successful bowler with 4 wickets for only 13 runs while Suhail claimed two.

In reply, Salmiya XI lost opener Masood — runout without score. Saleem Sr did not allow any batsman to set in comfortably as he kept uprooting the stumps and finished with five wickets while Melwin and Saleem Jr got one each.

Shaher 13, Hanif 10 and Saleem 27 not out were the only ones to enter the double figures. Salmiya XI were all out for a mere 95 runs.

Racehorses die in stable fire

SYDNEY, Oct. 17. (Reuters): Twenty-three racehorses, worth more than \$760,000 were killed overnight in two separate stable fires in Australia, police said today.

About 30 horses were rescued as fires spread through the stables of trainers Peter Miers in Sydney and Drahman Turner in Melbourne late last night.

A spokesman said police were investigating the cause of the fires but it was too early to say whether they were started deliberately.

Racing officials said all the dead horses, mainly pacers and trotters, were of prime racing stock.

Milan set to face Real

Butragueno may not play

LONDON, Oct. 17. (Reuters): Depleted and demoralised AC Milan are bracing themselves for Real Madrid's European Cup backlash.

Six months after the humiliation of their crushing 5-0 semifinal defeat by the Italians in the San Siro stadium, the Spaniards return tomorrow desperate for vengeance.

And AC Milan fans know they could get it.

Top of the Spanish First Division and with few injury worries, new Welsh coach John Toshack will send out his side to chase a victory which will bring almost as much satisfaction in Madrid as ending the club's long wait for the trophy. They enjoyed the last of their six triumphs in 1966.

By contrast, holders Milan are still without inspirational Dutchman Ruud Gullit, have several other stars out injured and have made their worst start to a domestic season for six years.

"We will look Real in the eye without fear," said Milan trainer Arrigo Sacchi, who admits the Spaniards are currently a better side going into the second round first leg match, unquestionably the tie of the round.

Besides Gullit, Sacchi is also without defender Filippo Galli and striker Daniele Massaro. European Footballer of the Year Marco van Basten is back after a six-week absence with a cartilage injury but lacks match fitness



Butragueno (left): not fully fit

while another Dutchman, Frank Rijkaard, has hurt a foot but is determined to play.

The three Dutchmen all found the net last April as Milan routed the Spaniards with five goals in an hour to book their place in the final before lifting the trophy for the third time in their history but for the first time in 20 years.

Toshack's only worry is an ankle injury to Spanish international Emilio Butragueno — his chances of playing are rated 50-50 — and the Welshman insisted: "We're going to put things in their place. The good thing about this match is that we have an opportunity to erase these bad memories."

Real, crushed 3-0 by Barcelona in the Spanish First Division last week, overran Malaga 4-0 on Sunday in a comfortable

warm-up for their return to the San Siro.

The Milan-Real tie is one of two matches to be screened before and after Marseille's European Cup clash with AEK Athens.

The move is the brainchild of club president Bernie Tapie, who has launched a major drive to attract more supporters and build an atmosphere to match his ambition of bringing the Cup to France for the first time.

Marseille, who are training in seclusion at Digne in the Alps, are expected to ring the changes after some disappointing league results. They have scored just twice in their last three games, all against struggling clubs.

But trainer Gerard Gili has indicated Marseille may still not have their priorities right. "The league has nothing to do with the European Cup," he said. "Tomorrow you will see a dynamic and well concentrated team whose main objective will be not to concede goals."

PSV Eindhoven welcome back Danish international defender Ivan Nielsen for their tie with Romanian Steaua Bucharest in a clash between two former winners of the trophy.

Nielsen missed PSV's 8-1 Dutch League victory over MVV Maastricht after picking up an ankle injury playing for Denmark in a World Cup qualifier against Romania last week.

Hlasek rallies to beat Reneberg

Agassi routs Masur, Curren upset

TOKYO, Oct. 17. (AP): Andre Agassi breezed past Australian Wally Masur 6-3, 6-4 today while fellow American Kevin Curren was upset by unseeded Eric Jelen of West Germany in the first round of the \$627,500 Seiko Super tennis tournament.

The 19-year-old Agassi lost only two points on his own service in the first set as he belted powerful ground strokes from the baseline.

Masur rushed the net behind a powerful serve that gave him 12 aces, including four in the eighth game. Agassi had two aces in the match. Masur hit 73 per cent of his first serves against Agassi's 61 per cent.

But Agassi gained a key service break in the second set's fifth game, after recovering from 0-40 to keep service in the fourth game.

"It was pretty good today considering the fact that I had not played for six days. I hit the ball cleanly and took the advantages at the

right time," said Agassi, ranked fifth in the world.

Jelen, ranked 48th in the world, lost the first set but rallied to beat Curren, No. 27, 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 on the artificial court of the Yoyogi National stadium.

Third-seeded Jakob Hlasek of Switzerland also had to fight back for a 6-7 (4-7), 6-3, 6-2 triumph over American Richey Reneberg.

Fifth-seeded Carl-Uwe Steeb of West Germany beat American qualifier Patrick McEnroe, a younger brother of John, 6-4, 6-2.

Veteran Andres Gomez of Ecuador, the sixth seed, crushed Hidehiko Tanizawa, who in September became the youngest male winner ever in the All-Japan Tennis Championship, 6-0, 6-2 in less than one hour.

"All his shots were much better than mine. I need more experience," the 17-year-old Tanizawa told reporters.

Dan Goldie, the No. 8 seed, beat fellow American Paul Chamberlin 6-4, 6-4 and Canadian Grant Connell downed American Scott Davis 6-3, 6-3.

Australian John Fitzgerald trounced Thomas Hogstedt of Sweden 6-3, 6-2.

Henri Leconte of France struggled to a first set tie-break but then easily wrapped up a 7-6 (7-2), 6-0 triumph over Japan's Toshihisa Tsuchihashi.

Leif Shiras overwhelmed fellow American Tommy Ho 6-4, 6-2.

American Aaron Krickstein fought through two tie-breaks before downing Slobodan Zivonjovic of Yugoslavia 6-3, 6-7 (8-10), 7-6 (7-4) in almost two hours.

Top-seeded Stefan Edberg of Sweden meets Canadian qualifier Glenn Michibata in a first round match tomorrow.

Pervez slams century

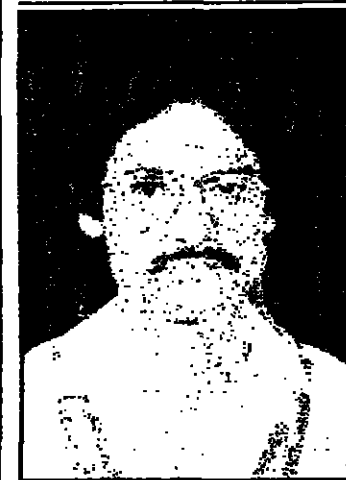
IN-FORM batsman Pervez Aslam demonstrated an amazing power-play when he amassed 147 runs off only 68 balls against Lucky Star in the opening match of the Pirella Trophy Cricket Tournament at the N.C. Ground on Friday.

Batting first, Kifoo's opening pair of Nasir Ahmed and Pervez Aslam put up a formidable partnership of 189 in only 18 overs. Pervez Aslam was severe on all the bowlers right from the beginning and hammered the bowlers all over the ground. His innings, which contained 10 sixes and 9 fours, totally overshadowed a classic innings of 53 by Nasir Ahmed.

After Pervez's departure, Rashid Ansari, promoted to No. 3 followed in the footsteps of Pervez Aslam and scored a whirlwind 49 with the help of 9 fours. At the end of allotted 28 overs Kifoo had managed to score 271 for 5.

Chasing the target of 271 at 9.67 runs per over, Lucky Star's opening stand produced a partnership of 40 runs and later on Ateeq with Taber put up 43 for the third wicket, but as soon as acting skipper Aqueel Ashraf introduces himself the Lucky Star's batting line up fell into pieces.

The hostile spell of Aqueel Ashraf gave him the superb figures of 6 for 18 and helped Kifoo wind up Lucky Star innings at 141. Shehid Pervez 2 for 10 and Shahid Butt 2 for 17 were others who share the bowling honours. Shahzad Abdullah also bowled well but was unlucky not to claim a wicket.



Aqueel Ashraf



Pervez Aslam

Lanka sail to 84-run victory

A SPECTACULAR century by Nalaka Wijesuriya enabled Lanka Colts - Trico - to beat Flying Arrows by 84 runs in an India Tea Board Knockout Trophy cricket match played at the EPI grounds on Thursday.

On winning the toss, Skipper Hiran elected to bat first and sent in Nalaka and Vimal to open the Colts innings. With the total at 39 a mix-up resulted in Vimal being needlessly run-out for 7.

Hiran, coming in at the fall of the first wicket, batted with purpose and was involved in a valuable partnership of 62 runs with the elegant Nalaka before being holed out to mid-on off Ashok for a quick 23.

Chris then joined Nalaka to pour on the steam and demoralised the Flying Arrows bowlers with some power packed drives and pulls to produce a partnership worth 82 runs for the 3rd wicket. The entertaining partnership ended when Chris was out playing on, for a solid 44 which included six hits to the fence.

Playing almost every shot in the book with great timing and perfection, Nalaka's majestic knock was a spectator's delight. He was finally bowled for a valuable 112 runs studded with 15 boundaries and two mighty sixes. When time was called at the end of 29 overs the Colts total stood at an imposing 224 for 4 wickets with Roville and Roy ending the Colts innings with a flourish to remain not out in 19 and 10 respectively.

Chasing a target of 7.72 runs per over, the Flying Arrows batsmen were never in contention and finished off with 141 for 7 at the end of their allotted quota. Verold with 29, Saleem and Ashok with 16 and 22 were the main contributors to the Flying Arrows total.

Chris, Hiran and the young debutant Hajreen shared the spoils for the Colts.

Playing on Friday at the same venue, Lanka Colts comfortably defeated Prince Cricket Club by 8 wickets in a Patron's Trophy knockout match. Batting first Prince were bundled out for 135 runs in 27 overs, due to some excellent spin bowling by the veteran Oliver Perera and the young Tuan, Hafeez Ossen who both claimed 3 wickets apiece.

Senaka Perera with tidy figures of 2 for 23 with the new ball and the ever reliable Ralph de Niese with 1 for 27 further contributed to the frustration of the Prince CC batsmen. Assad with a patient 62 was the only batsman to provide any sort of resistance.

The Colts batsmen, in reply, made short work of the easy target and scored the required runs in just 18 overs. Nalaka with an aggressive 58 inclusive of a six and 6 fours and useful contributions of 36 No. and 20 No. by Ossen and Senaka paved the way for another Colts victory.

YMCA, Evergreen and Unity score easy wins

YMCA, helped by some excellent fielding and confident batting, thrashed Morning Star by eight wickets in a Malhotra Trophy match, organised by Unity Cricketers, at the EPI ground on Friday.

Morning Star skipper Anjum won the toss and opted to bat but lost their first wicket when the score was only 20. Kamal hit 31 and Sohail remained unbeaten on 42 as Morning Star scored 158 for the loss of seven wickets in the 22 allotted overs.

For YMCA, Salim took three wickets in six overs while Arun and Imran got one scalp each.

Imtiaz and Ajit opened the innings for YMCA and took the score to 54 before the latter was out. Salim joined Imtiaz and further boosted the score until Imtiaz was out for 46.

Hafiz and Salim then tore the Morning Star attack apart as they hit all the bowlers at will. Salim and Hafiz remained unbeaten on 40 and 46 respectively as YMCA scored the winning runs without further loss.

YMCA will now meet Starlite on Friday, Oct. 27.

A day earlier YMCA were engaged in the opening of a new cricket ground in Riqqa. The new ground was opened by Brigadier Mohammad Saad Al Khadur, assistant director of Ahmadi governorate. Al Khadur was accompanied by Col Salim Mousallam Al Mouazari, chief of Ahmadi police and Col Atala Al Farhan, chief of Wafra police.

To mark the opening, an exhibition match was played between BKME and YMCA.

Earlier in the day the draw for the Good-Year Trophy, sponsored by Abdul Hadi Al Mailem,



Bng Al Khadur opens the new ground.

was held. The first games of the tournament start on the Oct. 20, morning at 9 am between Quaid-e-Millat — Morning Star and Deccan Blue — Capri in the afternoon at 1 pm. There are 12 teams entering the tournament and they are divided into two groups.

Group A: Union, Blue Star, Kokan, Quaid-e-Millat, Young Fighters, Morning Star. Group B: BKME, West Coasters, YMCA, PCC, Deccan Blues, Capri.

Evergreen also had an easy Friday when they smashed Al Ahli Bank by 46 runs in the first match of the Al Athla Trophy at the Sabah Al Salem Grounds.

Batting first, Evergreen piled up 209 runs at the loss of 6 wickets which included a superb inning of 73 runs from opener

Rifath. Other major contributions came from captain Dawood and Suhail. Both scored 35 and 38 runs respectively while Rana Ashraf, Mozam, Azam and Akram put in their share of 13, 6, 13 and 10 runs respectively.

From Al Ahli Bank, Imtiaz Waseem, Zahid, Parveen and Husain Ali, all shared one wicket each.

In reply to a difficult target of 209 runs in 28 overs, Al Ahli Bank had a shaky start, losing one of their openers at the total of 22 runs only. William, the new man into the crease, followed him with his personal score of 5 runs. Sajjad, playing confidently, could only resist upto the 10th over when he was bowled by Inam for 21 runs.

Though the wickets kept fall-



The BKME and YMCA teams before the exhibition match at the new ground.

ing regularly, a defined effort of 27 runs from Ahmad, 24 from Parveen, 17 from Abid and 14 runs from Imtiaz helped Al Ahli Bank build up a respectable total of 163 runs in the allotted 28 overs.

For Evergreen, Inam bowling for the first time got away with 2 wickets while Shahzad, Azim, Suhail, Mozam and Akram shared one wicket each.

A spectacular performance with bat and ball from Robin enabled Unity to beat Al Mulla in a "Al Mulla Mitsubishi" Friday league match.

Al Mulla, batting first, started off with a bang — Tariq being severe on Ayoub whom he blasted for 16 in an over to accelerate the run-rate. Ibrar, at the other end, was all at sea against Irfan who was bowling a good line and

length and later had him bowled for a poor score.

A fine partnership between Tauseef and Tariq produced 53 runs before Robin mesmerized both batsmen with his left arm orthodox spin. Tariq (44) was beaten in the air and Bitto completed the stumping. With his next delivery he had Tauseef caught by Lucas for (18).

Robin, with his third delivery, trapped Hassan lbw for no score to record the first hat-trick of the season. Only a robust 58 from Khalid towards the end took Al Mulla to a fighting score of 171 for 7 in 29 overs.

Robin was the mainstay of the Unity bowling taking 4 for 21 in 6 overs. Irfan and Shabbir took a wicket each.

Chasing 172 for victory, Unity openers Babar and newcomer

Abuzar put on 33 in 3 overs before Abuzar was unfortunately run out for an elegant 19. Bitto (5) was another run out victim making Unity 40 for 2 in 5 overs.

Babar, in trying to quicken the scoring, was smartly held by Tauseef for 25. Ayoub (7) was dismissed by Michael putting Unity in trouble at 64 for 4 in 10 overs.

Shabbir and Robin took up the challenge and proceeded to produce a solid partnership maintaining the temp of seven runs per over. Shabbir was unbeaten on a cautious 46, while Robin played an innings mixed with patience and aggression to also remain not out on 67 to eventually take Unity past Al Mulla's score by making 172 for 4 in 21 overs.